

Vincent Jones Addresses Agency Copy Chiefs on Continuing Study

WHEN Vincent S. Jones, executive editor of the Utica Observer-Dispatch, gets hold of a good idea, he isn't satisfied to take it for what it seems to be worth; he worries at it until he has extracted every ounce of value no matter what the effort involved. The Continuing Study of Newspaper Reading is a case in point.

When a survey of the Observer-Dispatch was made last November, Mr. Jones set out to discover what an editor could learn from it, how he could use it. Last month he was invited by the Bureau of Advertising of ANPA to report his conclusions at a meeting of advertising agency copy chiefs in New York.

"I'm a little jealous," he said in opening, "every time I admit that the impetus for this superb enterprise seems to have come solely from the advertising fraternity and their customers and that the news department got a free ride." However, he accepted the brass ring because "I realized that the Study was a magnificent tool—but only if you knew how to use it."

Mr. Jones had been reading the releases of the Continuing Study carefully and when his newspaper was selected for the 94th in the daily series and the second in the new Sunday series, he became a first hand observer. He sat in on training classes for canvassers, watched the staff do its checking, and sent a crack reporter with some of the interviewers to get the feel of the thing and, eventually, to write a series of articles about it for readers.

He learned something about "confusion controls" and, after the score was in, was told that he had developed an excellent news and editorial formula. "Until then," he confided, "I had not been aware of using a 'formula'." However, he and his colleagues had been watching the Study carefully and "as a result of data turned up by it, we felt confident we

were navigating by a few fixed stars instead of 'by guess and by God'."

"Speaking in very general terms," Mr. Jones said, "the Study offers no outright challenge to any sound beliefs in the news or advertising fraternity. It does, however, provide an endless number of surprises in the field of qualitative analysis and in the all important matter of emphasis.

"For instance, all editors know that pictures of babies are interesting. But it must take 50 surveys to prove to them that they are just about the most interesting things in the world to women readers."

"It is good to see local stories dominating the lists of best-read items, even in war-times," he said but "Frequently it is somewhat mortifying to see how much smarter readers are than the editors—sniffing out items which have had pretty casual treatment." He has used a compilation of items made by the Bureau of Advertising under the title, "It's the Local Touch" to remind the staff that "since they can't possibly hide a good story, they might better lavish their talents on displaying it to the best possible advantage."

The City Hall story with a disappointing low score offers a challenge, Mr. Jones said, to discover a way to attract attention to a story that should be read but isn't. "We tried breaking up those long and involved reports of Council meetings into several stories and illustrating them whenever possible." And "A potentially fine feature may be languishing under the handicap of a stodgy standing head. A headline which combines continuity of theme with emphasis upon the topic of the day will do wonders for the readership of such a feature."

The Sunday Study answered with a rousing affirmative most of the questions that had been in Mr. Jones' mind. It was the pay-off on a seven year campaign to build up an edition which had lagged behind the parent daily in both circulation and advertising and which, at the time of the Study, had just caught up with the daily circulation. But ways to improve it also were revealed. The men accepted the comics, but the ladies

were more finicky and the fair sex also could do with more society news. A handsome map feature was something of a flop and "a panel which I thought was the quintessence of humor, was scorned by all but a handful of readers."

Capitalizing on the constant curiosity of readers about the workings of the editorial mind and the operation of a newspaper, Mr. Jones assigned a staff member to give them the complete story of the survey. "Perhaps it doesn't make sense to tell subscribers what they themselves read," that story began; but it developed into a series of three pages which would rank high in any reader-interest survey.

Plea for Aid on Salvaging Used Fats Is Renewed

IN A LETTER to President Forrest, Wilder Breckenridge draws a gloomy picture of a continuing fat shortage, gives editors a pat on the back for past cooperation and seeks their aid in keeping salvage at peak levels.

Mr. Breckenridge, manager of the American Fat Salvage Committee, reports:

"In spite of the meat shortage, railroad strikes and various other unhappy events, housewives turned in 13,441,000 pounds of used fats in May, which is only about half-million pounds down from April. This really extraordinary performance is another concrete demonstration of the wonderful job the daily and weekly press have done in their support of Fat Salvage."

Happily, he says, the returns of fat did not drop off as expected with the end of the war and the absence of the red-point bonus. Instead, "For the first five months of this year, our average monthly tonnage is 43 per cent ahead of the last five months of point rationing." The Committee and the Department of Agriculture people, he says, "are very conscious of their obligation to editors in achieving those levels."

"As a matter of fact," he concludes, "the fats and oils picture today is gloomier than it has been at any time since the beginning of the war. Therefore, the necessity for maintaining Fat Salvage collections at absolutely peak levels is very real."

WILLIAM PAPE IS SPARK BEHIND LOVEJOY MEMORIAL

SIX ASNE members are on the national committee of The Lovejoy Memorial committee, many others have contributed to it either personally or through their newspapers, but the spark behind the movement is William J. Pape, publisher of the Waterbury Republican and The American. When the New England Daily Newspaper Association initiated the plan to erect a building and establish a professorship at Colby College in memory of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, who died a martyr to the cause of press freedom, Mr. Pape was made national chairman.

In circulars sent to all editors, he has set forth the reasons he believes newspapers should support The Lovejoy Memorial, Roy Roberts' plan for a William Allen White memorial chair of journalism and the Peter Zenger Memorial which Editor and Publisher is fostering. But when a busy publisher accepts an assignment which involves a great deal of responsibility, there must be an added reason the project strikes him as more worthy than other calls upon his time and energy, a reason probably arising in own background or experience. "Why," The Bulletin asked Mr. Pape, "did The Lovejoy Memorial appeal to you and win your unstinted support?" His answer appears in the adjoining column.

ASNE members on the National Committee, which is still incomplete, are Paul Bellamy, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Robert B. Choate, Boston Herald and Traveler; Frank E. Gannett, The Gannett Newspapers; Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade; Joseph Pulitzer, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Ogden Reid, New York Herald Tribune. Another member of the Society, Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight of the Holyoke (Mass.) Transcript is on the New England Committee.

The estimated cost of the project is \$300,000, two-thirds of it for a building, the rest for the proposed Chair of Journalism.

Lovejoy was born near the new Colby Campus, overlooking Waterville, Maine. He was a member of the class of 1828, and was killed at Alton, Ill., in 1837, in defense of his "liberty to speak, to write and to publish whatever I please, being amenable to the laws of my country for the same."



WILLIAM J. PAPE

Martyr's Life Is Inspiration To Cause of Press Freedom

• By WILLIAM J. PAPE, Publisher
Waterbury Republican and American
Waterbury, Conn.

THE SPECIAL appeal of the Lovejoy Memorial Hall project to me was that I was trained in newspaper work by a red-headed fighting Irishman who thought it was a newspaper's duty to dig out the truth and print it. If he had been in Elijah Lovejoy's place in 1837 he would have been shot, too. As I studied the Lovejoy record I learned how profoundly the country was moved by what happened in St. Louis and Alton, Ill., in the 1830's.

Here was a brilliant young editor, living in a hostile atmosphere, beset and threatened by hired gangsters, denied the protection of the law, calmly facing imminent death while insisting on his right to write his opinions on a great national controversy. His was the first blood shed in opposing the spread of slavery and he

was our first martyr in the cause of freedom to write, speak and publish. Yet American newspaperdom had forgotten him.

The totalitarian threat against press freedom has almost reached the United States and it is time we did something to educate the public and the newspapers on what the first article of the Bill of Rights means to the United States and its people. We should preach the free press gospel from every available rostrum and at every opportunity and Lovejoy Memorial Hall should be the source from which most of the inspiration flows.

Nover's Column Is a Must For Government Officials

BARNET NOVER'S picture is the only newsman's photo adorning the living quarters of the White House, Newsweek said recently in an article about the Washington Post columnist.

Although it is syndicated to only twenty-odd papers, Mr. Nover can pride himself on the fact that his column on foreign affairs is a daily must for Washington readers from President Truman to bureau clerks, the article revealed. His tenth anniversary as The Post's analyst brought congratulations from cabinet members and other high officials. Their theme: How right you were on Mussolini, Hitler and Tojo.

Righteous Anger Is Asset To Editor, Kirschten Says

A GREAT capacity for righteous anger is one of the first requisites of an editorial writer, Ernest Kirschten, editorial page editor of the St. Louis Star-Times, said at a Journalism Week forum at the University of Missouri, at Columbia Mo.

"The editor presides over the most important vehicle of information and propaganda in the world," Mr. Kirschten said, "and the only way for him to be read is for him to have a definite opinion and to write about it." He advised his audience "to write an editorial as if you were aiming it at someone you know personally; keep away from satire, and remember that your readers are intelligent."

Herald's Clipper Edition Makes Miami Mid-city of the Americas

JOHN S. KNIGHT'S Miami Herald has taken the entire Caribbean area within its daily circulation area.

Daily and Sunday Heralds are delivered by air on the day of publication to such distant points as Trinidad, 2,200 miles from Miami, and Bogota, high in the mountains of Columbia, 1,500 miles away. This ambitious "Clipper Edition" makes Cuba and Puerto Rico suburbs of the Florida metropolis that are nearer by plane than points in northern Georgia. It provides English-speaking peoples of the Latin-American countries with direct up-to-the-minute news of the United States on the day of publication and is making Miami the mid-city of the Americas.

Through these services, Mr. Knight points out, the Herald is a major factor in solidifying the bonds of trade relations and cultural understanding with the Latin countries.

It follows a line laid down by the Commission on the Freedom of the Press in stressing the importance of mass communication media in promoting a better worldwide understanding. The report states: "The importance of this fact in the continuing struggle to establish a stable, peaceful world society can hardly be over-emphasized. What it means in simplest terms is that the directors of mass-communication media everywhere must come to regard themselves as being no less responsible for the shape of the world than Foreign Offices and Parliaments."

The edition is the outgrowth of wartime circulation of regular Herald

editions to Army and Navy bases in the Caribbean and South and Central America. Taking this as his cue, Managing Editor Lee Hills set out to develop an edition tailored especially for the Latin market that would substantially pay its own way.

The first Clipper editions were delivered to Havana on Jan. 9, 1946, after months of preliminary surveys to determine what the reading public wanted. Formal announcement of the project was made for the first time last month.

Today the edition is an integral part of The Herald. It serves an entirely new field never before touched by North American newspapers on a daily basis. Hundreds of letters from Latin countries attest its overwhelming popularity.

Pan American World Airways worked in close cooperation with The Herald through every step in the development of the unique edition.

It is a standard-size, lightweight edition of The Herald. It carries all the national and international news possible, complete with market reports for which it is the only daily source of information in the Latin countries, two full pages of comics, sports and features. All national advertising in the regular editions is included. To reduce weight, and in accordance with the reading preference of the North American and Latin audience, purely local and state stories are stripped from the Clipper.

The edition goes to press shortly after the early edition of The Herald has been run off. The clipper bundles are rushed by trucks to Miami's International airport, and less than an hour later have taken off for Central and South America and the key islands of the Caribbean.

Yes or No on Pictures?

A QUESTION, in the last Bulletin, as to whether the 1947 Proceedings should carry pictures of the membership brought one suggestion: That they be gotten out before the convention 'so we can refresh our recollection of faces.' Are there any other opinions?

John James Believes Party Label Hampers Independent Paper

THE DEMOCRAT of Johnstown, Pa., last month began printing under its Page One logotype the slogan "An Independent American Newspaper."

An editorial calling attention to the innovation said, "The problems America faces today, nationally and internationally, are not partisan problems. They cannot be solved by a partisan approach. No more can the problems facing this state, this country or this city." The Democrat, it continued, has always hit hard at waste, inefficiency and corruption, whether the guilty were Democrats or Republicans, and the daily printing of the slogan accents its stand.

Asked for the story behind the story, John F. James, editor of The Democrat, said he long has been convinced that newspapers are not fulfilling their obligations to their readers if they function merely as plugs for any political party.

"All of us, Republicans and Democrats alike," he writes, "are quick to note stultifying effects of the Communist line in the left-wing papers in this country as well as the government-dominated press within the Soviet Union. A strictly Democratic party line or a Republican party line can be just as hamstringing. Party labels mean little nowadays. Some Democrats out-Republican the Republicans and vice versa.

"Of course, if an editor is interested in patronage, or if he is using his editorial page to promote his own political welfare, he probably would prefer to approach issues on a party basis. It is up to him to decide where to draw the line between a party approach and a blind partisan approach. But isn't it fortunate that there are numberless shades of gray between white and black?"

The Bulletin's plan to build up a file of all ASNE members struck a snag when Mr. James was asked for a picture. "I don't have one," he answered, "and I rate having my picture taken in the same category as going to the dentist or the barber."

Any member who has had a picture taken recently is asked to send a glossy to THE BULLETIN.

Forrest Addresses Alumni Association Of Bradley Polytechnic Institute

WILBUR FORREST world traveler, went on another trip last month—home to Peoria, Illinois, to make the principal address at a meeting of the Bradley Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association which claims him as one of its most distinguished members. Where ever an ASNE member goes these days, he finds a fellow-member; this time it was V. Y. Dallman editor of the Illinois State Register and Springfield, who greeted him.

In his address the ASNE president paid tribute to the leadership of colleges such as Bradley. "From the broad lands of the middle west comes sound American thinking," he said, "sounder and more American, in my opinion, than that which springs from the divergent and confusing pressures in the great urban and industrial centers of our country." Sound thinking is the beginning of the long road to world fraternity in tolerance and good will, he pointed out, and quickly swung into the theme he is hammering home in all his addresses: "But I submit that international tolerance and understanding begin only when there is world freedom of communications of the press and radio. When that is possible the ultimate goal is nearer."

Mr. Forrest had this to say of Soviet control of the press: "Revolutionary Russia has only just emerged from isolation. It is perhaps natural that she should look at the new world with some suspicion. When this distrust is broken down, and I am convinced that some day it will be, then we will know more about the Russian people, and to know them will be to like them.

"We are dealing at this moment, however, not with the Russian people but with the professional diplomat. With the people we have no contact because the Russian government policy dictates a rigid control of the press."

"It behooves the American press," Mr. Forrest said, "to live up to the standards we have created and to cooperate with others who have a lesser background of freedom to gather and print the news and to prove that a free press is a responsible press."

"You may ask yourselves by now why a newspaper man should come before you pleading the cause of world

V. Y. Dallman
of Springfield
(left)
was on hand
to greet
President
Wilbur Forrest
in Peoria.



freedom of information," Mr. Forrest continued. "It is because we who have spent decades in our profession both at home and abroad ferreting out and interpreting the activities of statesmen and diplomats now regard our work as important, if not more important to world peace than is time-worn diplomacy."

Canton Repository Writer Lampoons Editors Who Support Ex-politicos Turned Columnists

THE EDITORS of The Canton Repository are not above letting their staff columnist take them and their profession for an occasional ride. Joseph K. Vodrey, managing editor, submits the latest blast of Truman Twill, pseudonym of an editorial writer who is also the author of the "Constant Reader" column. Addressed "Dear Editor," it begins:

"It has been some time since I laid you over a barrel. Therefore I will take my barrel stave in hand and give you a larrup where I think it is due.

"My peeve is newspaper columnists who are not columnists but people temporarily out of the political racket who come whining to the press to support them in the style to which they are accustomed after a lifetime of sap-sucking on the public payroll."

His quarrel, he said, is not with the imposters but "with the sniveling attitude of newspapers" which makes it possible for ex-politicos to turn up as full-fledged newspapermen making 50 times as much money as a fellow who has spent his life in the business.

"Naturally, I do not expect you to give this your serious consideration, because you will put it down as the ravings of a crank who does not know

The Bulletin has no correspondents, depends on members for news of other members. This month's orchid goes to V. Y. Dallman who sent clippings on President Forrest's address in Peoria. News of Members and editorial references to ASNE are always welcome.

what he is talking about. Well, do you know what you are talking about, dear editor?", he continued, and, "It's time you birds took the sacred obligation to preserve a free press half as seriously as you are always exhorting us readers to take it. Let newspapermen do the writing and let broken-down politicians and their wives and widows find another racket. Personally, I want to be able to keep track of all of you under your right names and not get fooled by some fellow posing as a newspaperman when I would know darned well what he was if he came out from behind the eyeshade and wrinkled forehead he is posing in to fool the people. You can get off the barrel now, dear editor, and go back to work."

When Truman Twill sounds off about newspapers everyone enjoys it and the only question is, who enjoys it more—the readers or the editors?

On Membership Committee

President Forrest has named Walter R. Humphrey, editor of The Fort Worth Press, to the Membership Committee. Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, is chairman.

SOCIETY LOSES TEN MEMBERS

Names Stricken When Change in Status Makes Them Ineligible under By-laws

ARTICLE II, Paragraph 11, of the by-laws of the Society reads:

"Any member who, from any cause, shall cease to be eligible, shall forfeit all rights and interests in the Society."

In accordance with that rule, the Secretary automatically strikes from the list any member who no longer meet the requirements, due to changed status on a newspaper, retirement from the profession or employment in some other business. No names were stricken for several months preceding the convention as a proposed amendment would have permitted such ineligible to apply for associate membership. With its defeat, Secretary Dwight Young has removed ten former members from the roster. The status under which they joined ASNE is given on the following list, with the reason for their ineligibility.

ARTHUR R. TREANOR, vice president, Booth Newspapers; retired.

DOUGLAS MARTIN, managing editor, Detroit Free Press; temporarily retired, due to ill health.

J. S. RUSSELL, managing editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune; farm editor, The Register and Tribune.

DON MORRIS, editor in chief, Palm Beach Post and Times; science editor, Philadelphia Record.

B. E. MAIDENBURG, assistant to the publisher, Detroit Free Press; promotion manager, Knight Newspapers.

REX SMITH, editor, Chicago Sun; director of public relations, American Airlines.

J. R. WIGGINS, editor, St. Paul Pioneer-Press and Dispatch; disqualified by the rule limiting the number of members from any one newspaper when he became assistant to the publisher of The New York Times, which already has the four members permitted under the by-laws.

The war brought about several of these changes in status. Major Hart, one of the first members to enlist, since has severed his newspaper connection. Lt. Col. Rex Smith and Capt. Ben Maidenbourg were carried on the rolls as inactive members when they were in service but were ruled out on their post-war status. J. S. Russell, national authority on agriculture, took over the managing editorship of The Register and Tribune for the

duration and now has returned to his original love, the farm section. Major J. R. Wiggins returned to the St. Paul newspapers following his release from the Army, later joining the staff of The New York Times.

Several borderline cases on the membership list will be submitted by the Secretary for decision by the Board of Directors at its fall meeting.

In addition to the above Secretary Young has received three resignations: ROBERT M. BLOOD, managing editor, Manchester (N.H.) Union-Leader, for personal reasons.

RICHARD POWELL CARTER,

EX-MEMBER'S VALEDICTORY TO ASNE

B. M. McKELWAY, treasurer, has received the letter that follows from S. M. Williams, one of the earliest members of the Society. Formerly editorial supervisor of Ridder Newspapers, he later turned to other fields. Disqualified as a member, his name appears in the 1936 Proceedings as "associate member," an honor apparently accorded by the Board at that time although no provision for such rank is mentioned in the by-laws. In the 1942 listing, Mr. Williams re-appears as a full-fledged member by virtue of his association with the Code Authority for the Daily Newspaper Publishing Business. Later, engaging in public relations work, he was dropped from the rolls but continued to attend meetings and subscribe to The Bulletin. His case is cited here as evidence of the need for clarification of the membership clause in the by-laws so that it can be applied by successive Boards with some degree of consistency.

Mr. Williams writes from Pompano, Florida:

"I have received, at my Washington office to which I occasionally emerge from retirement the enclosed bill for renewal of my subscription to ASNE Bulletin. It is not the amount of the charge that impels me to return the bill without enclosing my check.

"I had hoped that the Society might find some way of permitting us retired, non-active members to sit on the side lines and listen to the proceedings at annual gatherings, so as

editor, Roanoke World-News, who has left newspaper work temporarily to live in Florida where the climate is more favorable to a son who has been ill.

DAN FORRESTAL, assistant managing editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and a member of the staff of that paper for 19 years, who last month left newspaper work to be affiliated with the Oliver L. Parks aircraft organization.

Members whose status changes are requested to consult the by-laws which appear in every copy of The Proceedings and submit their resignations if they are no longer eligible. This would be helpful to the Secretary who is charged with the task of keeping the membership rolls in accordance with the constitution.

to stimulate again our editorial spirits. But at last annual meeting that proposition was voted down for good and sufficient reasons, by the membership.

"So, I presume, we who once were active but now are 'has-beens' must be content to crawl back into our shells of retirement and forget the ASNE. It would be merely aggravating to read The Bulletin and not be able to say 'all of which I saw and part of which I was.'

"It is hard to give up hope, but there are some compensations in daily life down here on the East Coast of Florida. Even in summer time the climate along the coast is better than that of Washington."

Douglas Martin to Teach Journalism in Tucson

LAST WEEK'S mail brought a letter from Douglas Martin, formerly Detroit Free Press, who has recovered his health in the desert heat of Arizona but is staying on to make certain the cure is permanent. This fall he will start teaching journalism at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Although no longer in ASNE, he is counting on his fellow-members' help for suggestions on how to set up a practical course in journalism; he has written some of them, found them most cooperative and hopes to hear from others. And he'd be particularly happy if anyone vacationing in the vicinity would drop in to see him.

Peasants' Industry Impresses Owens On Overseas Tour

• By HAMILTON OWENS, Editor
The Sun, Baltimore, Md.

I WAS ONE of 14 editors and publishers who, as guests of the War Department, made a tour of Germany, Austria and Italy during last April. The thousands of impressions gathered on that trip cannot be compressed into a few paragraphs. I mention merely two of them.

The first is the persistence of the habits of industry among the peasantry of all three countries. Where ever we went, the fields were under the most intense cultivation—men, women and children slaving from dawn until dark in order to force the utmost out of their small and frequently ungrateful fields. Sometimes I think that it is the stolid peasant, after all, who is the true custodian of civilization. He plows around the smashed tanks, scrapes as much of the blasted soil as he can back into the bomb-crater, painfully rebuilds out of the old material his shattered barn and carries on as his forefathers carried on before him. He advances little, perhaps, but he retreats never.

The second impression which remains with me is the sum of many observations. It has to do with the enormity of the job ahead of us to find a way of living peacefully in the same world with Russians. I am not sure the Russians want this as badly as we do. I am certain they will not make as great an effort as we should like to achieve the common end. Just as the countryman's fear of the city slicker is extended to take in all city dwellers, so the Russians tend to suspect all the Western nations of devious conspiracies to undermine their regime. It is my belief that, by and large, they have less reason to be suspicious of us than we have to be suspicious of them, but unfortunately they do not see it that way. That is why I think the obligation to make the greater effort lies upon us.

But when you ask me what form that effort should take, I am at a loss. Perhaps we should first examine our present policy and find out to what extent it is determined by narrow selfishness and to what extent it is expression of our traditions of human freedom and human dignity. These

last are the principles on which no compromise is possible. About everything else we can bargain.

If bargaining comes to naught, then perforce we must accept the iron curtain as one of the temporary evils of our generation. The Russian system is no more static than our own. It evolves and develops. There are already evidences that the Russians themselves are of two minds about certain matters. Maybe after a while they will get tired of a policy which cuts them off from so much that is pleasant and useful in human intercourse. Patience, under such circumstances, will be our most rewarding policy.

Dr. Freeman Elevated To National Academy

THE SOCIETY has been honored by the election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters of one of its most distinguished members, Douglas Southall Freeman, editor of The Richmond News Leader.

Dr. Freeman, most widely known as an authority on the War between the States and for his books about General Lee and his armies, was elected in 1937 to the National Institute of Arts and Letters, from which the 50 members of the Academy are chosen. Named to the select group last fall, he was seated at the annual ceremonial in May.



Members Respond to Appeal For Aid to Japanese Editors

MORE THAN 200 issues of American newspapers have been sent to Tokyo as the result of an appeal made to ASNE and other newspaper organizations.

Major Daniel C. Imboden, who is using them as textbooks in the education of Japanese editors under the free press program laid down by General MacArthur, would appreciate still more newspapers. Please send a single copy to Cranston Williams, ANPA, 370 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. marked "For Major Imboden."

Meet a New Member: Carroll W. Parcher Of Glendale, Calif.

IF IT IS TRUE, as alleged, that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, then Carroll W. Parcher, editor of the Glendale, (Cal).

News-Press picked the hard way to work up the editorial ladder. For Mr. Parcher was born in Glendale, the son of the community's first mayor, and entered the newspaper business by way of the composing room of the Glendale Daily Press.

After serving an apprenticeship as a printer he started publication of a weekly newspaper, the Crescenta Valley Ledger, at Montrose, a few miles north of Glendale. Following custom in such ventures he acted, among other things, as editor, publisher, advertising manager, printer and office boy for the publication, which grew rapidly and later was merged with the Record at Tujunga. Mr. Parcher acted as co-publisher of the Record-Ledger, with occasional excursions into the field of politics as campaign manager and appointive office holder, for 15 years. Then, feeling that he had devoted enough time to the weekly field, he sold the paper and in 1939 became a columnist for the News-Press, a combination of the paper on which he started work and the Glendale Evening News.

In 1942 he was appointed associate editor of the News-Press and on Jan. 1, 1944, became editor. Mr. Parcher is a member of Sigma Delta Chi and a past lieutenant governor of the California-Nevada district of Kiwanis International.

He is in considerable demand as a public speaker in Southern California, practically always picking a topic into which he can work a discussion of some phase of the newspaper business. In 1924 he married Miss Frances Morgan. He and Mrs. Parcher have three children, Peggy, 19, Stuart, 15 and Janice, 2½.

FINNEGAN HEADS RESOLUTIONS

WHEN Robert J. Casey wrote his book about Chicago's newspaper life—"Such Interesting People"—he recalled that under the city editorship of Richard J. Finnegan the old Chicago Journal was a shop where special care was given to training your reporters.

Mr. Finnegan, now editor and publisher of The Chicago Times, still retains that interest in beginners in the news field. That is chiefly the reason one of his hobbies is the City News Bureau of Chicago, of which he is a director and the current president. For several years the City News Bureau has specialized in a training school. A great many men and women on the Chicago papers came out of the City News Bureau.

Another hobby to which he gives most of his time outside his office is the promotion of research into the cause and cure of rheumatic fever, the No. 1 health enemy of American school children.

He is president of La Rabida Jackson Park Sanitarium, a community charity which gives free convalescent care to children afflicted with rheumatic fever, and which has a dynamic research program in affiliation with the medical departments of Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois and Loyola University.

When the Associated Press case was before the courts, Mr. Finnegan took an independent position, disagreeing with the government, the AP, the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun. He wrote a 30,000 word "memorandum" for the lower court and had



RICHARD J. FINNEGAN, editor and publisher of The Chicago Times, has been named by President Forrest as chairman of the 1947 Resolutions Committee. The active and effective part he has played in the drafting and discussion of resolutions in the past made him a logical selection for the post.

an amicus curiae brief filed in the Supreme Court.

He believes that "copy" of the press is untouchable by government—in any way—because it is the chief medium by which editors and writers partake of the freedom of the press protected in the First amendment.

He thought the Associated Press should have kept its controversy wholly within the First amendment. He contended that the Associated Press made its chief mistake by devoting most of its defense in its briefs and arguments to the property aspect of its news report. He said the "freedom" factor in copy was a preferred right that repelled invasion under the commerce clause, whereas the "property" factor tended to invite regulation as commerce.

Patience is the Watchword

PUBLICATION of the annual Proceedings has been delayed by a printers' strike plus the usual current shortages. Work is progressing, slowly, and the book will be mailed as soon as possible.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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Dabney Sets Life Straight On How to Make Mint Julep

VIRGINIUS DABNEY, editor of The Richmond Times-Dispatch, took time out recently from journalistic problems to blast Life for a "diabolical mint julep recipe" the magazine had printed.

"It seems to be a cross between a julep, an old-fashioned and a Planter's punch," he wrote, "—a nondescript melange which actually contains a slice of orange, a slice of lemon and a cherry, to say nothing of a straw. Such heterodoxies are well nigh incredible."

Director Named, Work Begun On Plan for Accreditation

THE American Council for Education in Journalism, has named Dr. Earl English to direct the plan for accrediting journalism schools in which ASNE is participating. Dwight Marvin, editor of The Record Newspapers, Troy, N. Y., is president of the Council.

Dr. English, who has had newspaper experience and has also taught journalism, is now making a tour of ranking schools to accumulate information before working out details of accreditation.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 277

August 1, 1946

CAN EDITORS AFFORD TIME FOR CIVIC AFFAIRS?

EDITORS HAVE ALWAYS given time and energy generously to civic affairs and although the war increased the burden, the war's end did not bring relief. Several ASNE members recently have said that their extra-curricular activities are taking more time than they can spare from their newspapers, yet they feel an editor should not refuse legitimate appeals for cooperation. To determine how widespread this condition is, The Bulletin queried 25 members.

The response shows clearly that the matter is indeed a major problem to most editors, some of whom are not very hopefully seeking a solution while others believe they have found the answer. A cross-section of opinion on the subject is presented here.

Yes, Says McBride, He Makes New Contacts, Picks Up Ideas, and Freshens His Views

• By WILLIAM M. McBRIDE, Editor
The Herald-News, Passaic, N. J.

A NEWSPAPER editor gets to be wet nurse for every worthwhile community undertaking but he doesn't have to see the baby through school and married off. He can slide out when it is weaned.

Too many demands will always be made upon him, the more so if his paper is alone in the field and trying to be of service to 46,000 readers who look for more than a news report. Sometimes there's someone else on the staff who'd like to serve. Or the editor can sidestep by suggesting a few names of interested persons.

Civic work is good for the editor and his paper.

It wastes time today and saves time tomorrow.

If he helps to give direction to an undertaking, pointing out mistakes to be avoided, getting the right men, setting sights, he can get out when the project is under way. He won't be called upon later to give the patient a transfusion or to waste time at the bedside.

It's good for him. He meets the doers of the town, makes fresh contacts, picks up editorial ideas.

If he's drawn as a grand juror and selected as foreman, he renews acquaintance with judges, lawyers, process servers and bail bondsmen who know his reporters but who've almost forgotten the editor and seldom get to his office. He gets a freshened-up view of the way the other half of his town lives.

If bank rivalries have blocked the organization of a community chest for years, the editor may be the one man in town who can get the movement started. He doesn't have to stay with it (I didn't) but the experience will give him a much better idea of the job the social agencies are doing. He can keep a continuing interest by being simply a "public member" of the neighborhood chest board.

I passed up the Elks and all that, dropped out of Rotary and kept only an American Legion membership. None of us will accept public office.

I went on a rationing board and a defense council during the war but got off as soon as I could, after the feverish, formative days were over. But I learned a lot and got it the easiest way. It was helpful to the paper.

That goes for all the civic work that takes so much time. The paper

is helped and so is the man who edits it.

Until I was being processed to go to Italy as a war correspondent I never realized how many of these involvements I had gotten into. Then I had to fill out a War Department questionnaire so that FBI could make the usual security check-up. The number ran to something like 25.

I've been able to slide out of many but others come up from time to time. And there are recurring jobs that seem to be part of our job. They don't leave much time for leisure unless you find leisure in interesting work.

The Red Cross chapter chairman asked me if I would continue to give over-all supervision to campaign press copy. It was easy to do because the copy came well prepared, so I told him:

"Yes—if you don't list me as publicity chairman."

Krebs Says Demands Run Out of Bounds

• By WALTER W. KREBS, Editor
The Johnstown (Pa.) Tribune

I AM bogged down in extra-curricular activities. Those offices which demand the greatest of my time and thought are: president of the Board of Managers of Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital; chairman of building Committee of Cambria County War Memorial; chairman of Airport Committee, Chamber of Commerce; member of Pennsylvania Aeronautical Commission; trustee of Johnstown YWCA.

However, these activities do not take as much time as the demands made by chairmen of every campaign conducted in the city. It seems that every chairman just must talk over the campaign with the editor.

I do consider the amount of time I

NEXT MONTH'S Bulletin, the August issue, will be the last until October 1 when the combined September-October number will bring members up to date on interim news.

Members, particularly committee chairmen, wishing to bring any matter to the attention of the membership at this time are requested to write the Office of The Bulletin well before the end of this month so that such items may be included in the August issue.

give to such activities as being entirely out of reason. There are many days on which more time, even in my office, is devoted to outside activities than to the problems of the newspaper. I believe the editor of an American daily newspaper should be very much a part of the community life but that his greatest contribution to the community life is in the production of a good newspaper. I think the time has come when newspapers published in cities of a population of 100,000 or more should employ a person whose sole duty is to represent the newspaper in civic activities.

What am I doing about it? The Board of Managers of the hospital has permitted me to resign if I give them one more year's service, making a total of six years as president of the Board of Managers. I am also planning to train a young man who in time will represent the newspaper in many civic activities. This of course will not prevent any member of our force who desires as an individual to serve officially on any civic body.

There's a Limit, Odell Finds, To What an Editor Can Do

WALLACE ODELL, editor of the Tarrytown (N. Y.) Daily News has been secretary and a director of the Tarrytown Hospital for 25 years, is a trustee or director of several organizations, but is now easing out of some.

"It is hard for an editor to dodge responsibility" he writes. "If he is a live wire and actively boosting his town and planning big things for the future, he has to help carry the ball. There is a limit, however, and I think an editor should turn on the red light when such outside activities interfere too much with his work on the newspaper. That's a big job if done well and requires all the editor can give it."

Too Many Goat Feathers?

W. J. HOOTEN, editor of The El Paso Times, says: "I have been wondering for some time if I were gathering too many goat feathers or whether other editors were in the same boat."

He is active in four major service organizations and holds office in four fraternal groups besides, which "seems quite a bit when I write my own editorials and a daily column besides."

And Another Thing, Says Walter Locke, Too Many Luncheons Sap Your Strength

• By WALTER LOCKE, Editor
Dayton Daily News

DURING my first 50 years as an editor I let myself be drawn into a vortex of all good works. I ran hither and thither to luncheons, and dinners, and committee meetings and tried to squeeze a little newspaper work in between.

At the beginning of my second 50 years I saw the vanity of this course and without withdrawing my interest from all good works I confined my activities to the newspaper's relation

to them. Among other things, when an editor engages in these outside activities, he almost inevitably finds himself compromised in ways which warp his judgment as a journalist.

As the end of my second 50 years draws near I find myself staying at home nights and find that the perspective of that distance on local events is a freshener of journalistic attitude. There is a certain amount of this kind of thing, I suppose, that an editor must undertake. But I think most of us let our strength be sapped too largely by such activities.

Piper Sees Possibility Editor May Lose Objectivity

• By A. M. PIPER, Editor
The Council Bluffs Nonpareil

I DO NOT think an editor has any business on hospital boards, planning commissions or similar civic groups, and for the following reasons:

1) An editor's work is extremely exacting if he does the job right. He cannot look over his mail, hold a conference of department heads, and then leave the office and forget about business for a day or a week.

2) An editor should be familiar with all civic enterprises but he should not give an undue amount of time to any particular project or projects.

3) An editor who serves on any board, commission or committee will eventually become biased in favor of that particular agency and find it difficult to be objective in assigning space to its activities. If he writes editorials he will find it especially difficult to be absolutely impartial in discussing the work of a board or committee of which he is a member.

For these reasons I have consistently declined to accept membership on boards or committees whose activities entitle them to any considerable amount of newspaper space, or are likely to become the subject of editorial comment. I realize that special cases arise from time to time, but, if the newspaper must supply a member for a board or committee, it should be someone other than the editor, if at all possible.

There's Just Not Time, North Has Discovered

"I DON'T KNOW how it is with the boys on the large metropolitan papers," says J. M. North, Jr., editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, "but if we country editors tried to get around to all the civic projects and 'do good' activities to which we are named we would have little or no time for newspaper work."

Mr. North says his activities along these lines have been somewhat reduced lately but still include membership on the board of directors and the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest, the Southwestern Exposition and Fair Stock Show, and the Texas Hereford Association.

As it is impossible to accede to all requests and still do your work, Mr. North has fairly consistently declined to join any luncheon clubs because they come at the worst time of the day for the editor of an afternoon paper.

"When I am importuned," he says, "to take part in some activity or even to become a director in its organization, I decline on the ground that the Chamber of Commerce, Community Chest and Stock Show so take up my spare time that I have none available for any other activity; that I do not wish to become a director in anything in which I cannot take an active part, and, that the character of the organization is such that I would aid it just as much, or perhaps more, off the board than on."

REGIONAL MEETINGS PROPOSED

California Member Says Annual National Convention Cannot Cover Full Field of Needed Discussions

Asked for his comments on anything at all of interest to other ASNE members, Kenneth S. Conn came up with an idea that rocks the very foundations of the Society. So far as we can recall, it has never been suggested before and it is presented here in the hope that other members will freely voice their opinions of it.

• By KENNETH S. CONN, Editor
San Jose Mercury Herald and Evening News

THE 1946 Washington convention was a WOW! We want more like it—the kind that gives us visiting editors an over-all picture of national and international issues.

But, we also have strictly editorial problems that need discussion. How can they best be handled?

In a recent visit with Dwight Young I suggested the possibility of handling our shop talks in regional meetings. There are several reasons to my way of thinking that make regional meetings almost mandatory.

The first reason is that the ASNE is growing. It is impossible in one national convention a year to cover the full field of needed discussions.

It is also impossible for many of us living long distances from Washington to attend more than one or two national meetings a year. Yet the need for more than one meeting a year is apparent to all.

The second is that various sections of our nation have sectional problems which could be discussed in regional meetings. Many California and West Coast problems have little interest to New England or Southern editors.

The third is that one or more of the national officers could attend the regional meetings and become better acquainted with the rank and file membership.

The fourth and most important reason would be a strengthening of the Society in that many members who for one reason and another find it impossible to attend the national convention every year would attend the regional meetings. This would add greatly to the Society's solidarity in standards and aims.

The regional meetings could be handled by chairmen appointed by President Forrest, or elected by regional membership. I personally favor appointment by the Society president as regional elections might

tend to set up inner organizations within the main organization.

Full minutes of the regional meetings could be distributed to the entire membership for what value they contain or for further discussion in other regional meetings or at the national convention.

Forrest's Talks on Freedom Of Press Bring Results

PRESIDENT Forrest's missionary zeal brings results wherever he travels and talks. Following an address he made at Corpus Christi, the Texas Newspaper Publishers Association passed a resolution pledging its support to the cause of world press freedom. He spoke in Richmond and Governor Tuck introduced a resolution in the Virginia Senate, passed by both houses, favoring guarantees of the right of free press for all peoples through the United Nations as a means of promoting understanding among nations.

Last month Mr. Forrest took a much-needed vacation, returning to his office on August 1.

Our Liberal Virginian

A READER of Life takes issue with Virginius Dabney's recipe for a mint julep, recently printed in that magazine, pointing out that the editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch advised muddling the mint before getting on to the main business. A Virginia gentleman never crushes the mint, says the writer, Harold B. Hinton of Washington, also a newspaperman though not an ASNE member.

However, Mr. Dabney is a Virginia gentleman and he does muddle his mint which leads to the obvious conclusion that he is simply not content to confine his liberalism to his political beliefs!

Veterans' Group Asks Omission of 'Ex-Wac' In Crime Headlines

THE LEGION of Women Veterans appeals to ASNE members to give a thought to the disservice which is done to former members of the armed forces by the use of terms such as 'ex-GI' and 'ex-WAC' in headlines and leads, particularly in stories dealing with crime.

In a letter to President Forrest, Patricia M. Deuse, national commander, says her organization contends that such unwarranted publicity is detrimental, not only to the reputations of former service men and women but also to those still in uniform. The fact that a person was in the service of his country can be conveyed, she believes, without the use of headlines. The Legion, Miss Deuse continues, does not advocate whitewashing of crimes or expect clemency for those who, formerly in uniform, run afoul of the law.

"But," she says, "in fairness to the millions of law abiding citizens who also are 'exes' we ask that you lend us assistance in preventing terms such as 'ex-Paratrooper' or 'ex-Medic' from carrying a meaning that might reflect upon all of us."

Lloyd Felmy Concur

AS ASNE prestige grows, more and more appeals of various natures are addressed to the Society, so we asked a representative member, Lloyd M. Felmy, editor of the Newark Evening News, what he thought of this one.

"I would say 'ex-GI' and 'ex-WAC' ought to be avoided in headlines of stories dealing with crime," Mr. Felmy says, "unless it is shown that the crime grew out of their experience in the service. Even then, I would say it was questionable. All these people were civilians before they were soldiers. Isn't this the same question as using the phrase 'ex-Yale man' in a head when the person involved may also be an 'ex-stock broker' or an 'ex-automobile salesman' and 'ex' a lot of other things?"

Mr. Felmy, incidentally, has been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. He was a member of the Class of 1916.

★ Notes on ASNE Members ★

ALFRED G. HILL, publisher of The Chester (Pa.) Times, scooped his reporters on an accident story one day last month. Calling on a local merchant in his store, Mr. Hill bade him adieu, started out what he thought was the door and walked full stride into a plate glass window. The damage included one thoroughly broken window; head bruises and several minor cuts on one leg and one hand. Before the news spread, Mr. Hill walked to his office to turn in the details to his city editor.

★
FOR AN EDITOR to own a farm is not unusual but Tom Wallace is unique. He not only lives on his farm but often milks his cows before going to the office.

This news item is provided by The Farmer's Home Journal which last month saluted the editor of The Louisville Times for his leadership in promoting soil conservation. It cited the job he has done in reclaiming a run-down farm as evidence that he practises the conservation measures he is constantly advocating.

★
T. M. HEDERMAN, editor of the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger, has received an honorary LL.D. from Mississippi College. Commenting on the award, another ASNE member, Major Frederick Sullens of the Jackson Daily News, wrote in his column: "It is a distinction richly deserved by this splendid gentleman and journalist. Much of the growth of Mississippi

College in recent years has been due to the energy and ability Col. Hederman has contributed to its management in the role of president of the Board of Trustees."

Japanese Editors Base Code Of Ethics on ASNE Canons

THE Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association has voluntarily adopted a Code of Ethics based on the ASNE Canons of Journalism, a step hailed by Major Daniel C. Imboden of GHQ, SCAP, as a great advance for the Japanese press.

The ASNE Code has also been translated and published widely for the guidance of Japanese newspaper staffs. Thrown back into English the translation shows that the spirit and the intent of the Code have been captured with remarkable fidelity although the translator encountered word difficulties, particularly in the concluding article, headed 'Decency.' In Japanese, this becomes:

"Advocating the noble moral aim, if a newspaper is giving the excitement which will cause the vulgar action, that newspaper can't be escaped from the judgment to be insincere. For instance, the detailed publication of the crimes and sins. To publish such facts is not of course good for the public. Being want of the right to realize the rule, the journalism which is presented here can only express the following desire—that is to say, the action which tempts consciously the mean instinct will meet with the opposition of the efficient public or will surrender to the influence of the superior professional condemnation."

Frank Sparks Bereaved

BELATEDLY received is the news of the death of Mrs. Marie Sparks, wife of the editor of The Grand Rapids Herald, who succumbed to a heart attack in their home in Grand Rapids in May. Few, if any, members have more friends in the Society than Frank M. Sparks and the hearts of all of them go out to him in his loss.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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Fat Salvage Slumps Suddenly; Editors Aid Urgently Asked

A GLOOMY prophesy on the fat situation made by Wilder Breckenridge of the American Fat Salvage Committee came true with unexpected suddenness in the month since his appeal was printed in these columns.

In "an unabashed plea for help" addressed to President Forrest, he says "The meat shortage really caught up with us last month and collections of used household fats dropped to 11,244,000 pounds, which is nearly 5 million pounds less than we collected in March of this year. If this decline continues, it may have very serious results."

Newspaper cooperation has been the most important single factor in maintaining high levels of fat collections. Mr. Breckenridge says but this too has declined rather sharply. The monthly average clipping return from January to June 1945 was 9,315; for the corresponding period this year, it has been 3,694.

"We are well aware that editors are probably getting a little punch-drunk with respect to fat salvage," he adds; but, he points out, this government-industry program has been peculiarly a newspaper baby and to survive it still requires intensive press support.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 278

(Combined September-October Issue)

October 1, 1946

'Academy' Committee Proposed To Improve Newspaper English

• By EDWARD J. MEEMAN, Editor
Memphis Press Scimitar

IN RECENT YEARS this sort of thing is appearing in press association and other newspaper copy:

"Molotov said Byrnes' support of the Canadian proposal 'took me by surprise.'"

Formerly, and I believe correctly and reasonably, it would have been stated:

"Molotov said Byrnes' support of the Canadian proposal took him by surprise."

The second form is that in which people talk, and it is natural and reasonable.

No construction which does not seem clear and right when read to a blind man is good. (Incidentally, for that reason, quotation marks are not qualification.)

The change from the use of "him" to "me" is not improvement, it is deterioration.

I would not defend the British custom of reporting a speech entirely in indirect quotes. But I do think the attempt to use first person in a sub-

ordinate clause of quotation is awkward and unsuccessful.

This brings up a larger question:

Should not the Society have an "Academy" committee, which would encourage better usage, as radio encourages better speech? Such a committee, by suggestion, of course, not compulsion, would suggest the revival of old ways that are better than modern ways; would suggest new ways to replace old ways that don't make sense. For instance: We have given up "Aye" for no good reason. It is easier to say, and more pleasant than the harsh "Yes," which suggests assertion rather than the conformance and agreement so implicit in the ancient "Aye." There are many old words, phrases and spellings which are "obsolete," but intrinsically more "modern" than what we are using. On the other hand some old and respected locutions are so involved and senseless that they should be replaced by simpler ones.

The English speech is a great heritage. Who if not the newspaper editor should assume the responsibility to preserve it?

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FRANK GANNETT SCORES DANGEROUS LEADS

(Written in late July, Mr. Gannett's article missed the August Bulletin but his general observations are still timely.)

• By FRANK GANNETT, Publisher
The Gannett Newspapers

A POISON which easily could destroy the influence of the American newspaper is the fancy lead. By that I mean the lead which strains for effect rather than one which tells a truthful story.

We see it every day. It is especially prevalent in wire copy. The lead may be based on some trivial or inconsequential fact, selected because it is sensational or because it gives a writer his chance to be cute. The important, significant news is buried.

This reaching out for effect is a serious threat to the newspaper's

prestige and perhaps even to our American mode of life. Through this evil we are led blindly into the noose of pressure groups. Without knowing it we can be tricked into supporting all sorts of questionable crusades.

I am all for interesting writing. I like short, bright leads, too. But when it comes to important news stories that may have some effect on the reader, I'll sacrifice smartness and shock any time for plain, clear, factual

ASNE Message Wins Belgian Editor's Praise

PIERRE BLANC, publisher of Europe Amerique, cables President Forrest from Brussels:

"In view recent ban on sale throughout France of our illustrated Belgian weekly Europe Amerique I desire express to all members your great freedom loving association my deepest gratitude and admiration your statement to Economic Council UNO which fulfills pledges you and colleagues made to us when we had great honor and pleasure meeting you in this little liberty loving country last year."

The Society's magnificent stand, M. Blanc continues, gives heart to those who are still battling censorship in Europe.

The AP, UP and INS all sent abroad liberal accounts of the message sent to the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, and reaction from other countries is expected.

(For further details, see page 6.)

THIS is the last issue of The Bulletin until October 1, when a combined September-October number will be published.

For the rest of this month, the Office of The Bulletin will be closed tight and no mail forwarded to the vacationing editor. During that time, any matter requiring an immediate answer should be addressed to Secretary Dwight Young, Dayton Journal-Herald.

prices were soaring throughout the country. These leads were written in New York probably not later than 9 o'clock in the morning and at that time our wire services had not definite knowledge about how prices were behaving anywhere. There was no basis whatever for this attempt to alarm the public and the next day we learned that these stories were largely false.

Our leads later told about picket lines, mass demonstrations and growing uprisings among the people. Mostly the demonstrations were feeble and futile. Even those stories which began so frighteningly were watered down in a few paragraphs which stated, in puzzled fashion, that prices hadn't changed much, that the picket lines were small and that trade hadn't been interrupted to any extent.

The real news, when OPA went into its coma, was that our economy wasn't too greatly upset. Prices rose sometimes, to catch up with the black market or to make up for the subsidies which taxpayers had been supplying.

Inexorably the law of supply and demand went to work in some of the markets but such facts were not made a prominent part of the OPA reports. Those stories were full of grief, disaster and violent action. The sober fact that the price mechanism can work if given a chance, that trade was unhindered, that merchants were not all profiteers was mentioned only in passing in the wire stories.

I mention OPA because the campaign ran for so long a period. Other stories have lived briefer lives but they have been colored in the same way. The tricky, smart, sensational lead is a weakness to which newspapers have yielded for years. If persisted in, it can destroy us. Our desire to be honest and factual will be ridiculed. The critic who ends all arguments with "it's just newspaper talk" will be upheld.

I feel so strongly in this matter that I have written the heads of our wire services protesting the folly exposed so vividly in the OPA stories. It will do no good to resent this one instance if we do not resolve to abandon entirely a vicious habit that can do us great harm. I hope others who appreciate the dangers of the false leads will join me in protesting. We are within the family here and can talk frankly, without bitterness, about a matter that needs immediate attention.

Two Problems: Printer Shortage And Sagging Newsroom Spirit

A question about problems particularly affecting editors in cities from 75,000 to 100,000 brought the following response. As the majority of ASNE newspapers fall into this population group, any discussion of their problems is pertinent in the extreme. For the next issue, what's your current dilemma?

• By T. T. HUNT, Managing Editor
Beaumont Enterprise, Beaumont, Texas

SECOND ONLY to the newsprint shortage, and perhaps it should come first, is the positive lack of printers, which in turn throws a greater burden on all departments, particularly the editorial. They say the printers have followed war's migratory urge into other businesses and lines of work, and that it will be a few years before these strays have gone broke or become fed up with alien pursuits, and will drift back into the old corral. Another reason given by old-time printers for the shortage is the fact that apprentice training fell very low during the war, simply because boys of that age were training for Uncle Sam.

Well, while searching for printers, several obvious things have been done. Cut the copy a little closer to hold down the overset to near nil; bring page proofs and let desk men who normally would be handling copy, check these proofs, saving makeovers and late press starts. Double your force of makeup editors, to plug up any other gaps.

All of this sounds like more printing than newspapering, and so it is. And so it will be, until printer bottleneck is dissipated by a shortcut, or the production of more printers.

I would like to conclude this homely brief on journalism by philosophizing that what we considered

normal only five years ago is a normalcy that never will return.

We are getting about half as much production in many mechanical lines and I'd say about 25 per cent less output in the editorial department. The time-honored traditions of the newsroom have been either forgotten or have been mailed to a pulp by a crop of would-be newspapermen and women who in many instances lack the very spirit that would make them what they claim to be.

It's a challenge to those of us who still have the old urge and who are not too old to do something about it. It's a daily, almost hourly, chore for us to be in there battling for what we know is the right approach to this profession. The writer hastily avers that he is well below the age of 50, and that this is not senility dictating the lament.

Speeches and ASNE Affairs Keep Forrest Moving

WILBUR FORREST'S schedule this month is crammed with activity, largely in the interests of ASNE. As president of the Society he addressed the student body of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., on October 4, and three days later, the New Jersey Press Association at New Brunswick. The semi-annual meeting of the ASNE Board of Directors will take him to Washington, October 17 and 18. The following week he will speak at the West Virginia Newspaper Council, Morgantown, W. Va.

So far he has accepted only one speaking engagement for next month. On Nov. 24 he will take part in the Chicago University Roundtable of the Air in Chicago. Another ASNE member, Palmer Hoyt, publisher of The Denver Post, also will appear on that program. The third speaker will be Seymour Berkson, general manager of INS.

STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Garzon Says Coverage of Latin-American News Is Better, Though Not Yet Satisfactory

• By JULIO GARZON, Editor
La Prensa
Spanish Daily Newspaper

I AM GLAD to say that generally speaking, the Press in the United States is doing a much better job of covering Latin America at present than some fifteen years ago. Up to that time, it was proverbial in the countries south of the border that the only things concerning them that could arouse interest in the "colossus of the North" were revolutions and earthquakes.

Several factors have brought this about, among them, an increasing personal interest on the part of our publishers and editors in Latin-American affairs. Travel, no doubt, has had an important part in making it possible. Together with these editors, publishers and a considerable number of free lance newspaper writers, many thousands of men of business, education, the arts, science and the liberal profession, among others, have visited our Spanish-speaking neighbors through the years, especially since the Good Neighbor Policy brought our peoples so much closer together.

These conditions, naturally, have created a greater public interest in the U.S.A. for news of the other Americas; hence the greater coverage, which by no means can yet be considered satisfactory in its quantity or quality.

Between the two types of handling Latin-American news, the objective and the so-called interpretative reporting, I much prefer the first. American correspondents are prone to view and report on Spanish-speaking "americanos" through the particular color of the political lenses they wear. And if there is anything Latins dislike, in the same measure they do foreign diplomats who make a habit of interfering in their domestic affairs, it is correspondents with a propensity to seeing red or blue at the slightest provocation, and without an honest effort to investigate first. The reason behind this attitude is that a biased, unfactual report can cause a great deal of uneasiness for bad feeling and even international complications.

For instance, a North American correspondent found himself branded "persona non grata" recently in a



JULIO GARZON

South American capital city, and was practically requested to leave the country. The only explanation he could find for this action was an old report by him, which he now admitted was mistaken, namely, calling the government which did not want him and which had come to power some months previously through a coup by petty officers of the army, "a creation and puppet of the Peron Argentine group." It seems the government in question did not want to take any more chances of being erroneously described to the American public, knowing very well what a difficult task it is to contradict and discredit a bad story regarding any of the so-called "banana republics."

This brings us to Argentina—by no means a banana, but a very beefy

About Our Spanish-Speaking 'americano'

MR. GARZON was elected to the Society last April by unanimous vote of the Board, under the clause in the by-laws permitting election of any newspaperman who shall have distinguished himself by notable service to the public or the profession.

Besides editing La Prensa, Spanish language daily in New York City, Mr. Garzon has had an active part in two Pan-American Press Congresses and is now working on arrangements for the third, in Bogota, Columbia, beginning Nov. 25. He is secretary of the Inter-American Press Association of the U. S. A.; an honorary member

country with oodles of pride and steaks and a firm determination to live its independent destiny in Latin America as a rich, resourceful and logically influential nation, to the best of its ability, in its spot on the South American continent. If ever there was a country horribly mishandled in a reportorial way by American correspondents for an alarmingly long period of months, that country was Argentina. You cannot judge Argentina or any other Latin American country through the ideological spectacles one usually puts on to appraise European affairs, indiscriminately putting the brand of "fascist" or "communist" on any given country, person or political group, since military dictatorships of the Porfirio Diaz and the Juan Vicente Gomez type, and revolutionary movements such as that of Emiliano Zapata antedate Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler by many moons and have no connection with them whatsoever.

I read New York City newspapers mainly and, therefore, cannot very well make comparisons as to the quality of reporting on Latin-America with newspapers from other cities. I can point out, however, with gusto that the best work is being done by those papers which carry their political views exclusively in their editorial columns, being objective in their news treatment.

In conclusion, my only suggestion in the matter is that American editors send to Latin America correspondents with open minds and no prejudices, preferably men who can ask for their breakfasts in the native language of those countries and are willing to mix with "latinos" socially.

of the Hispanic Society of America (Sigma Delta Pi) and has what he describes as 'a modest decoration' from the Legion Pan-americano de Mexico, Mexico, D. F.

Election under the distinguished service clause is an honor that has been sparingly bestowed. Only other members so elected on the current rolls are: David Lawrence, United States News; Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism; Josephus Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer; and Robert U. Brown, Editor and Publisher.

ANY MEMBER wishing to propose a candidate for election to ASNE should communicate at once with Membership Chairman Wright Bryan, editor of The Atlanta Journal.

To be voted on by the Board at its meeting, October 18-19, applications must first be approved by Mr. Bryan. The necessary blanks and other information concerning membership can be obtained from him.

ASNE ENCOURAGEMENT EFFECTIVE

Interest Aroused in Bill for Reorganization
Of Congress Helped its Prompt Passage

WHEN President Truman signed the bill calling for an extensive overhauling of the legislative machinery of Congress, the ASNE could justly take a modest bow. The man responsible for focusing editorial interest in the bill was Alexander F. Jones, who arranged a session at the 1944 convention at which proponents of the bill pleaded their cause. Mr. Jones here gives a fill-in on the part that newspaper influence played in its ultimate passage.

• By ALEXANDER F. JONES,
Managing Editor
The Washington Post

THE INTEREST of the Society in this most important legislation (streamlining Congress) was, in the opinion of Senator Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin, and Representative Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, a not inconsiderable factor in the astonishing success of this fight.

In 1944, when this plan was only a gleam in the eye of a few progressive legislators, we arranged a forum at the Capital as part of our annual program. At that forum, Senator LaFollette, Representative Monroney, and Senator Maloney of Connecticut, outlined the plan which is now law. Other members of Congress opposed the plan.

The interest of the American Society of Newspaper Editors encouraged the proponents of the plan tremendously. Editorials in support of the proposal started to appear and the movement attained real backing.

Again, at our 1946 meeting, Representative Monroney appeared on our program and gave a most convincing talk on the necessity of revamping the machinery of Congress. Following this talk, I watched the editorial viewpoint throughout the country and it was very obvious that the reorganization of Congress had the wholehearted support of our editors.

In discussing this matter with Representative Monroney after the bill was passed so surprisingly, he said he would never forget the encouragement we gave him in that first forum in the Capitol caucus room. I am sure that many members of the Society will agree with me that it is tragic that Senator Maloney of Connecticut did not live to see the success of this fight. He literally worked himself to death battling for it. While the bill does not include changes in the present seniority system of selecting committee

chairman, I have a strong conviction that this can be accomplished in the not too distant future.

It is most pleasant to know that our Society was a factor in putting over a very vital step forward in the conduct of our government. I am certain that this will be an inspiration for many members of the Society in future efforts to bring real understanding to the people so that democracy can become a more effective instrument.

ASNE Wording Adopted In House Resolution

IN THE DEBATE on the amended House Resolution 4982 authorizing \$19,000,000, for the State Department Information Service, Congressman Vorys (Rep.-Ohio) referring to Amendment No. 4—"that all printed matter . . . in the field of mass media shall, when disseminated by the Government, be identified as to Government or private source"—said:

"Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that No. 4 is a paraphrase of a resolution of the American Society of Newspaper Editors which they are attempting to promote throughout the world, and it is very proper that we make this a part of the fundamental law of our land."

Freedom of Press With a Vengeance

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 19 (AP)—Journalism has become a preferred occupation under Brazil's newly approved constitution.

There will be no censorship. Newsprint will be admitted into the country without import duties. Journalists will be exempt from income taxes and, in the case of those buying homes, from transfer taxes. No other profession was given these exemptions.

The drive for an improved status for newspaper men was led by the Brazilian Press Association.

Committee Head



DWIGHT S. PERRIN

ELECTED to the Board of Directors of the Society last spring, Mr. Perrin has now been named 1947 Nominations Chairman.

Managing editor of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin for seven years, he previously had been assistant managing editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. For 13 years on New York newspapers, he was successively city editor of The Tribune, The Herald and The Herald Tribune.

He is a member of the Executive Committee of the AP Managing Editors Association, on the Board of NANA and The Bell Syndicate, and on the PNPA Committee on Editorial Affairs, and active in other newspaper organizations.

In July Mr. Perrin married Mrs. Julie Kerby, who for more than three years was an officer in the WAC, retiring with the rank of major.

Perrin Is Nominations Chairman; Dabney Heads Editorial Committee

WITH THE CHAIRMANSHIP of several important committees already announced, President Forrest has now filled in the membership so that these committees can get off to an early start on planning for the 1947 convention. Mr. Jones already has been announced as program chairman; his full committee and other appointments follow.

Program

ALEXANDER F. JONES, Managing Editor, Washington Post, Chairman.
BEN M. McKELWAY, Associate Editor, Washington Star.
DAVID LAWRENCE, Editor, United States News.
RAYMOND McCRAW, Night Managing Editor, New York Times.
TOM WALLACE, Editor, Louisville Times.
VINCENT S. JONES, Exec. Editor, Utica (N.Y.) Observer-Dispatch.
BASIL L. WALTERS, Exec. Editor, Chicago Daily News.
OVETA CULP HOBBY, Executive Editor, Houston Post.
VERNON E. FAIRBANKS, Exec. Editor, St. Paul Dispatch & Pioneer Press.
NORMAN CHANDLER, Editor, Los Angeles Times.

Memorial

BURROWS MATTHEWS, Editor, Buffalo Courier-Express, Chairman.
MICHAEL A. GORMAN, Editor, Flint (Mich.) Journal.
WESLEY IZZARD, Amarillo (Texas) News-Globe.

Education

DWIGHT MARVIN, Editor, Troy Record, Chairman.
STEPHEN C. NOLAND, Editor, Indianapolis News.
A. H. KIRCHHOFFER, Managing Editor, Buffalo Evening News.

This is the ASNE's own committee on education, although each of its members is doubling in brass. Mr. Marvin is also the Society's representative on the American Council on Education for Journalism, and president of the Council. Mr. Noland and

Mr. Kirchhofer are the ASNE representatives on a joint committee of newspaper organizations and journalism professors which are cooperating in a plan to accredit schools of journalism.

Nominations

DWIGHT S. PERRIN, Managing Editor, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Chairman.
EDWARD T. LEECH, Editor and President, Pittsburgh Press.
W. R. WALTON, Managing Editor, South Bend Tribune.
LLOYD FELMLY, Editor, Newark Evening News.
J. K. WALSH, Editor, Kalamazoo (Mich.) Gazette.
PALMER HOYT, Editor, Denver Post.
MANCHESTER BODDY, Editor, Los Angeles Daily News.
STANLEY BARNETT, Managing Editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer.
BARRY BINGHAM, President, Louisville Courier-Journal.
RALPH NICHOLSON, President, New Orleans Item.

Editorial Page

VIRGINIUS DABNEY, Editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Chairman.
J. DONALD FERGUSON, President and Editor, Milwaukee Journal.
RALPH COGHLAN, Editor of Editorial Page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
LEON STOLZ, Chief Editorial Writer, Chicago Tribune.
CHARLES MERZ, Editor, The New York Times.
MALCOLM W. BINGAY, Editorial Director, Detroit Free Press.
MICHAEL BRADSHAW, Toledo Blade.
EDWARD M. POOLEY, Editor, El Paso Herald Post.

Eligibility

Mr. Forrest has added a new committee to study the sometimes troublesome problem of eligibility as it concerns both applicants for membership and members whose changed status on a newspaper makes their standing in the Society questionable. To this committee he has appointed the three

persons who are most intimately concerned with membership problems throughout the year:

DWIGHT YOUNG, Editor in Chief, The Journal-Herald, Dayton, and ASNE secretary, as chairman.

B. M. McKELWAY, Associate Editor, The Washington Star, and treasurer of the Society.

ALICE FOX PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin, Wilmington, Del.

Resolutions

RICHARD J. FINNEGAN, publisher of the Chicago Times, has already been announced as Resolutions Chairman. Members of his committee are:

JOSEPHUS DANIELS, Editor, Raleigh News and Observer.
TOM WALLACE, Editor, Louisville Times.

WILLIAM HENRY GRIMES, Editor, Wall Street Journal.

RALPH COGHLAN, editor of Editorial Page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

BLANCHE HIXSON SMITH, Associate Editor, Meriden (Conn.) Record.

HAMILTON OWENS, Editor, Baltimore Sun.

W. S. GILMORE, Editor, The Detroit News.

ERWIN D. CANHAM, Editor, Christian Science Monitor.

PAUL C. SMITH, Editor, San Francisco Chronicle.

ROY A. ROBERTS, Managing Editor, Kansas City Star.

Bulletin Editorial Board

HARRY BOYD, Editor, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Chairman.

L. D. HOTCHKISS, Managing Editor, Los Angeles Times.

RUSSELL McGRATH, Managing Editor, Seattle Times.

JOHN R. HERBERT, Managing Editor, Quincy Patriot-Ledger.

Board of Directors Meets In Washington This Month

THE BOARD of Directors will hold its semi-annual meeting, October 18 and 19 in Washington.

Any member wishing to bring any matter to the attention of the Board at that time should write Secretary Dwight Young, editor-in-chief, The Journal Herald, Dayton 2, Ohio.

ASNE Urges Action to Bring Free Press Before UN Assembly

THE URGENT plea made by the Standing Committee on World Freedom of Information of the ASNE to the United Nations last month has already been widely publicized. Press associations carried liberal accounts of the 32 page document, which got a good press, even in New York City where the truck strike had radically reduced the size of all newspapers.

"One of the values of the message," according to President Forrest, who also heads the Freedom of Information Committee, "was to let foreign editors know that the ASNE is on the ball fighting the battle for press freedom."

Proof of that judgement is contained in the message from the editor of Europe Amerique on page one of this issue. Similar response from other countries is expected.

The crux of the message addressed by our Standing Committee to members of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations is contained in the paragraph reading:

"The proposals of this Society have long ago been transmitted to the Economic and Social Council. Later the formation of the Commission on Human Rights led to brief consideration of this and other issues which fell within the purview of that commission. It was decided subsequently that a sub-commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press be established to examine what rights, obligations, and practises should be included in the concept of information and to report to the Commission on Human Rights. It is our understanding that a report of this sub-commission must precede the consideration of a written draft convention to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and, if accepted by that body, to be placed on the agenda of the Assembly.

"Unfortunately, there has been much delay. It is now that American editors urge action."

There follows a summing-up of the leadership that ASNE has taken in the fight for freedom of information, including the round-the-world trip which Mr. Forrest headed, a story familiar to every member of the

Society. Also included are statements from President Roosevelt and other government officials which the committee carried with them on their tour, and others they received en route from governmental leaders abroad.

Also included in the message are statements from governors of 41 of our own 48 governors, with whom the Standing Committee communicated during the summer, requesting an expression of their opinion on World Freedom of Information. Particularly pertinent is one from Gov. Dewey of New York:

"The argument that in many parts of the world the newspaper standards are too low to deserve freedom is utterly specious and completely invalid. . . . In his day Thomas Jefferson faced

the virulent hostility of a huge majority of the newspapers of the country. Standards then were as low as they are anywhere in the world today. Jefferson himself sustained innumerable stings from scurrilous pens. And yet he wrote that if he had to choose between a state without government and a state without newspapers, he would prefer a state without government."

The report was submitted by President Forrest, chairman, and the members of his committee: John H. Sorrells, Scripps-Howard Newspapers; Ralph E. McGill, Atlanta Constitution; N. R. Howard, Cleveland News; Stephen C. Noland, Indianapolis News; B. M. McKelway, Washington Star; Roy A. Roberts, Kansas City Star; Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal; Edward Lindsay, Decatur (Ill.) Newspapers; George W. Healy Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune; A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News; L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers.

IS A TADPOLE A FROG? (A Tale Involving Liberty and Libel)

LETTER RECEIVED by E. M. Pooley, editor of the El Paso Post: "Genis: I wrote you an article I wanted printed. Please tell me why you did not print it." (Signed—)

MR. POOLEY'S REPLY:

"Dear Sir: We couldn't print your letter because it's a hundred per cent libelous. I am afraid we would have too much trouble in court trying to prove that a tadpole is not a frog. Speaking of court, you know you have a remedy in a charge of false arrest."

The 'Article' Submitted

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! The dam crooked politicians have ruined this country and got it by the tail with a downhill pull. Democrats are no better than Republicans—they both steal and pull crooked deals. Now I'll give you some plain facts.

X———, the Game and Fish man, issued me a license to sell non-game fish and minnows, which I was doing. One of his snitches came to my place and asked me if I had any minnows. I told him, "Yes, I had small hot water minnows." He said, "I want a dozen to go fishing with," which was a lie. He was trapping me.

It was the first time in my life I've been thrown in jail and fined \$50. He did not want to go fishing but went up-town and found Z———, one of X———'s main snitches and

pimps. They came down and said to me, "Have you got a license to sell non-game fish?" I said, "Yes sir." "Let me see it." He looked it over and said it's O.K. but I'll have to arrest you." I said, "What for?" He said, "For selling frogs." I said, "You're a liar, I have not sold any frogs." "Well come on and tell it to the Judge."

I did sell that snitch 4 tadpoles. A tadpole is not a frog till it sheds its tail. Is an egg a chicken? Hell no.

The river is a government stream. The people are the Government and own it. What right have they got to charge you for fishing in your own waters?

(Signed)———

P.S. If it will get you or me in trouble for calling him a pimp don't use it.

PLEASANTLY EXTRA-CURRICULAR



J. CURTIS LYONS, managing editor of The Progress-Index, Petersburg, Va., aboard the Norfolk and Western's deluxe Powhatan Arrow on its maiden run between Norfolk and Cincinnati last spring. "Junkets like this," says Mr. Lyons, "are the extra-curricular activities I like best and I suppose many other managing editors feel the same way about it."

THE QUESTION of how much time an editor can or should give to civic affairs weighs heavily on many a member's mind, judging from the number of letters received on the subject. Some have been received since the matter was discussed in the August Bulletin, including one from J. Curtis Lyons.

In more serious mood than at the moment the above picture was taken, Mr. Lyons says:

"Because they are obliging souls and are reluctant to say 'no,' editors and managing editors are being called upon for too many extra-curricular activities and are being forced to give to them time they need at their desks.

"The smaller the city, the greater is the demand to head or take leading parts in civic movements. No matter how 'big' an editor may be, he is bound to get a certain kick out of being called upon to lead this or that civic project but he should realize that his first duty is to his newspaper."

While Mr. Lyons agrees, of course, that full support of worthwhile enterprises is a vital part of a newspaper's duty, he believes it should not be solely a personal task for the editor. "He should not be asked," he says, "to head personally any campaign, commission or kindred group when he

certainly is doing vastly more good for that particular project, by publicizing it and gaining the public's support, than any chairman, who probably welcomes the assignment. To ask the editor to do both is unfair to him and his paper."

Verne Joy Considers Service Part of the Job

• By VERNE JOY, Publisher
Centralia (Ill.) Sentinel

In the small cities of 20,000 and below many of the community problems are laid in the editor's lap for action or advice. We regard it as just part of the job, sometimes with dividends of newsworthy information.

My experience, I assume, is about the same as other small city editors including a stretch of over 20 years on the Chamber of Commerce Board, State Chamber of Commerce, Inland Press Association, including presidency, Daily Newspaper Code Authority and etc., and etc.

At present I am doing a "solo" in development of a natural park of 150 acres adjoining the city on the east, initiating it with a gift of 75 acres and inducing two others to add a like acreage.

Parks have been a bit of a hobby as

I organized and headed our country club, and 40 acre park on the west side of the city.

I think you will find most editors doing such community chores, depending upon their particular interests, and I think it is just a necessary expenditure of time for someone on every newspaper to help carry water to the community elephant.

There does come a time, however, when one has to begin to say no, and that is precisely what I have been doing lately on odd jobs which should and could be done by others. Assurance of newspaper support is generally enough to furnish a good alibi, I find, and good alibis are also necessary in these hectic days. Mine is just the regular practice of most newspaper editors and publishers.

Kendall Has Own Test For Deciding Whether To Accept Any Civic Job

• By H. W. KENDALL, Editor
Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News

MY PHILOSOPHY as it influences an editor's job and time is this: the job itself comes first always, and filling that job in the best manner possible seems to me to be rendering about the highest civic service that is possible. I have never allowed myself to be bogged down in civic jobs, and have made it a point for a number of years to take only one of these jobs, if any, at a time. I have always applied two tests in my thinking: first, would the civic job or project which I am offered or which some group is attempting to force upon me require so much time, if I did it acceptably, as to interfere in any way with my editorial responsibilities; and second, would this job or project have any possibility of cramping my editorial style; lessening editorial influence or hindering any editorial criticism that might later be required. I simply do not believe that editing a newspaper will mix too much with civic and community activities. I do not see any higher service that might be rendered or influence that might be wielded than that which comes from an editorial page which enjoys highest public confidence.

Even stronger than my views anent assumption of civic duties and chores is my belief that an editor should steer clear of political appointments and

Tucson Citizen Has Hard and Fast Rule

RULE NUMBER ONE on this paper is that everyone from the publisher down to the lowliest cub reporter must give all his working time to the paper. We have no representatives on planning commissions, civic groups or hospital board and politics are taboo.

We have before us always the fact that we translate raw material into a finished product within a period of seven hours, or so, and we are just not smart enough to crowd any extra-curricular activities into our day.

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON, *Publisher*
Tucson Daily Citizen

influences. I do not believe that anything can lessen an editor's influence more than becoming part of an administration or political setup upon which he will necessarily have to comment.

To put it in interrogational form: what more can an editor do for his community or his state, in addition to living happily with himself afterward, than to be the best editor that he possibly can be?

I expect these views will probably draw some sharp disagreement, but nevertheless, they are my sentiments, and I think they are sound.

Dallman Sees Speeches As 'Spoken Editorials'

VINCENT Y. DALLMAN, editor-in-chief of the Illinois State Register, Springfield, believes that community service is a 'must' for any editor.

"Very naturally," he says, "the community looks to the editor of an aggressive and progressive newspaper to do more than to give editorial advice. Editors and publishers of Springfield newspapers have long been active in civic affairs, serving on numerous committees and commissions and championing specified subjects."

For a number of years Mr. Dallman has not only given unlimited space in the Illinois State Register in advocacy of the building of a great Memorial Civic Auditorium in his city but he has also given time generously to speaking on the subject before local organizations.

To him these addresses are 'spoken editorials,' often more effective than one confined to printer's ink. So convinced is he of the efficacy of the 'spoken editorial' that he made it the subject of an address before the annual conference of executives of the Copley Press held in Coronado, Calif., last month.

Society Suffers Loss Of Dr. Julian Miller, Former ASNE Director

THE SOCIETY has lost one of its most faithful members through the death of Dr. Julian S. Miller, editor of the Charlotte Observer. The news came just after the last issue of The Bulletin had gone to press.

Dr. Miller, who was stricken with a heart attack on July 28, had been in ill health for two years. He was hospitalized in March 1944 when he received word that his son, Julian Jr., waist gunner on a Liberator bomber, had been killed in action over New Guinea. Between the tragedy and the illness, he never recovered his health and had suffered with a heart condition ever since.

However, he staunchly continued with all his activities, including the chairmanship of the membership committee of ASNE, a post he held from 1944 to 1946, and he was largely responsible for the growth of the Society in that period. He also served as a director for two years.

Reared in Charlotte, Dr. Miller joined the staff of the Charlotte Observer after studying at Erskine College in South Carolina and the University of North Carolina. After ten years, he became editor of the Charlotte News, at the age of 28, and 16 years later returned to The Observer as its editor.

He was active in the Southern Conference of Human Relations in Industry, the North Carolina Conference of Social Service, and in educational organizations in his own and other states.

Dr. Miller is survived by his widow, two daughters, two sons, and a grandson.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 278 October 1, 1946

Hoboken Member Dies Suddenly of Heart Attack

ARTHUR L. FAGAN, editor of the Jersey Observer, Hoboken, died of a heart attack on July 28 at Saranar Inn, N. Y., where he was vacationing with Mrs. Fagan. He was stricken shortly after playing a game of tennis.

On graduation from Princeton, Mr. Fagan joined the staff of The Observer, eventually succeeding to the editorship which his father had held before him. He was elected to membership in ASNE four years ago.

Mr. Fagan, who was 47, is survived by his widow and eight children.

Jap Editors Progressing

CLIPPINGS received indicate that an AP story from Tokio on the organization of a Japanese editors' and publishers' society following the pattern of ANPA and ASNE, was widely published in American newspapers.

Japanese newsmen, Major Daniel C. Imboden of Allied Headquarters since reports, are making rapid strides in absorbing our own standards of journalism. "Our patience and constant reiteration of ASNE ethics," he says, "have produced and are producing improvement in the news reporting of the Japanese newspapers."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 279

November 1, 1946

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND A PROBLEM THEY POSE

THIS QUESTION has been puzzling Archie E. McCrea, editor of the Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon, Mich:

"The 'party line' of the Communist Fifth Column in the United States, under present stressful conditions, is a plea for 'peace.' That has become evident in the last week, and a faithful barometer is always the 'public pulse' column, in which the 'fellow travelers' have an outlet."

"This newspaper, adhering to the 'freedom of the press' principle, has let them have their say."

"Under the circumstances, how far are we justified in letting them use our columns?"

Addressing Mr. McCrea's question to a dozen or more members, The Bulletin broadened it to include any letters subversive to national interest, not conducive to the public good, or giving evidence that they are inspired. However, the extent to which replies dwell upon Communist letters indicates that currently they are the most troublesome.

Perry Says Adrian Telegram Exercises Freedom to Reject Subversive Letters

By STUART H. PERRY, *Publisher*
The Adrian (Mich.) Telegram

I THINK it is a fallacy, the idea that 'freedom of the press' requires an editor to print a given communication, or any communications at all. If that were true it would be the antithesis of freedom; for freedom of the press means that an editor may print or reject anything, for any reason, or for no reason at all. Readers have no 'freedom' to put their views into a newspaper.

The Telegram exercises that freedom without hesitation. Our policy might be stated thus:

We try to publish all communications on political issues and matters of public interest provided they are temperately worded and not more than 450 words long, and provided we do not think they are clearly against public interest.

We do not print them if we think they are against public interest, viewed objectively. We do not reject a letter that is bitterly Democratic or Republican, wet or dry, pro-union or anti-union; those are legitimate subjects of discussion on which honest

opinions differ. We would also reject it, regardless of its subject matter, if it seemed vague or meaningless, or based on erroneous statements of fact, or if for any other good reason we thought it ought not to be published.

As to Communism in particular, we would reject any communication designed to promote it. That would be on the ground that Communist Russia is a possible or potential enemy, and since an American Communist is an agent of Moscow he is a potential enemy agent—just as a Bund propagandist was before the war. Of course anybody, even a fellow-traveler, might say something favorable to Russia that would be reasonable and acceptable; one cannot formulate any rigid rules or definitions. But if his letter looked as if it were the brain-child of Moscow it wouldn't appear in The Telegram.

As long as I publish a newspaper I am going to print whatever I want to print, and leave out whatever I want to leave out. I think this is fair, and

moral, and in the interests of the public as long as it is done in a spirit of fairness, morality and public spirit. As to expediency—or in other words fear of making somebody mad—je me fiche de ca. An editor who is honestly trying to serve the best interests of his people and his country need fear nobody.

Philadelphia Record Prints but Exposes 'Party Line' Letters

By HARRY T. SAYLOR, *Editor*
Philadelphia Record

WE of The Record feel we have become almost expert in being able to spot the inspired letters for publication in the mail bag which come from Communist Party members and fellow travelers. We get a lot of them.

Our policy has been to publish the typical "Party line" communication and to point out in the head over the letter that it is suspect. This can be done in various ways which call immediate attention to our readers. The result invariably has been that we get half a dozen or more sound answers from Record readers who are also learning to spot the propaganda that is dished out by the Communists.

Even though the Russian policy is to suppress almost all American news and comment which would reflect upon the USSR, I am of the opinion that the American press should not follow such an oppressive example. I do think the American press must answer the Communist Party line emphatically and factually.

The Record has been following that policy for quite a long time. Being a liberal newspaper which supported most of the New Deal measures, we have been able to expose the Communist line to many of our liberal readers who in the past seemed more

susceptible to Moscow propaganda than any others.

I have enough faith in the free enterprise system, capitalism, or whatever you may call it, to believe it will win out in the long run over the Marxist theory. I am in favor of letting our readers know what Communism means and meeting the Communist claims openly in the editorial page, over the radio, and on the platform.

Of course 'freedom of the press' involves 'freedom to select and discriminate.' We try to make our mail bag one of the interesting features of our editorial page. We have space to publish about only one of every ten letters received. We give the Commies space for a letter once and maybe twice a week, which is the space about proportionate to their numbers and influence in this community. And we answer their specious arguments at every opportunity.

Chronic Repeaters Shut Off In St. Louis Globe-Democrat

• By LOUIS LaCOSS
Editor Editorial Page
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

AS TO the inquiry about Communist propaganda, we have little of it on this newspaper. It is transparent and is easily spotted. If it is not too vigorous or extravagant, we print it. Not many, of course.

Our letters column is called The Mail Bag, and we keep it open to all comers within reasonable limits. Our editorial policy is anti-New Deal, but for every letter which supports this policy we try to print one that holds the opposite view. Our experience is the common one no doubt of other editors, that groups or individuals championing a 'cause', once given an airing in the Mail Bag are chronic repeaters. We shut them off.

ENCOURAGING and exciting was the news that W. W. Waymack, editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, had been named to the Atomic Energy Commission. Members who commented editorially on his appointment are requested to send clippings to The Bulletin.

Courant Allows Utmost Freedom of Expression

• By M. S. SHERMAN, Editor and Publisher, The Hartford Courant

IN PRINTING Letters to the Editor in our Peoples Forum we allow the utmost freedom, of expression consistent with the laws of libel and the ordinary requirements of good taste. We do not assume to pass on the larger question as to whether or not these letters are conducive to the public good, believing it is better that the point of view expressed should be given an airing, however obnoxious it may be to us. Should it run counter to prevailing public opinion, other contributors to our Forum are pretty likely to make themselves heard.

Not infrequently we take editorial issue with a letter on the day it appears, particularly if such letter presents the Communist philosophy. But our main idea is to let our readers say what they think, and in editing their letters we are at great pains not to pervert the thought. We simply require observance of the customary rules of decency exemplified in our own columns.

'Fine to Be Liberal, but Not Fine to Aid Those Trying to Defeat Freedom'—Marvin

• By DWIGHT MARVIN, Editor
The Troy (N. Y.) Record Newspapers

I FEEL there is no obligation to publish in correspondence columns subversive letters.

The one reason we open our columns to our readers is because we believe in the freedom of the press. With the tendency to cut the number of newspapers in the average city to one or two and with the impossibility of starting opposition journals—except for men of great wealth—it seems good American practise to permit those who oppose, as well as those who praise, a newspaper's editorial position to have their day in court.

But when it comes to printing subversive material, that is another color. However one argues, the editor and the publisher must admit a kind of partnership in everything in the line of opinion which appears in their papers. They may object to it; but they are disseminating it. And when it becomes not only politically or civically objectionable but even teetering on the edge of treason no editor can afford to give it space.

It is fine to be liberal on the freedom of the press. But it is not fine to help, through publicity, anybody who is trying to defeat all freedoms.

(Mr. Marvin continues with the following story by request.)

SOME YEARS ago, when political advertising during a campaign reached

an apex, I received one or two competent letters replying to my editorials on the campaign. I printed them in our Pulse of the People.

But from that moment through the campaign every time I editorialized on the coming election I had a letter from somebody, carefully written and directly answering the editorial. I hunted up the writers and found they were authentic. I published all the correspondence. Incidentally, we won the election. The only difference we noted was a falling off of advertising, presumably because the letters did the business.

Some weeks later I discovered that all the letters were written by the same man, an outstanding attorney who was on the other side. He wrote the replies, secured willing partisans to sign them and informed his associates the party could save a lot of money by this process.

Out of this came a new rule in The Troy Record office. We will publish no political letters in our correspondence column during the month immediately preceding election. Our editorial column will present our views. The opposing orators will present theirs; and will carry the stories of their meetings and their speeches. But on the editorial page the first month belongs to us, not to the high command of the opposition, with the help of a company of 'signers' who merely sell their signatures for the good will of the leaders.

CAREFUL JUDGMENT IS REQUIRED

Melville Ferguson Says Philadelphia Bulletin Tries
'Not to Stamp as Injurious Letters We Disapprove'

• By MELVILLE F. FERGUSON, Editor
The Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia

THE BULLETIN does not knowingly permit the use of its letters columns for any kind of propaganda. When circumstances indicate that several letters expressing the same point of view—whether on behalf of a political creed, or a candidacy, or a course of action by a legislative body, or a "cause"—have a common inspiration, we feel justified in shutting off the barrage as an interference with the true purpose of the department.

We do not consider it necessary for a letter to The Bulletin to be "conducive to the public good," unless the wide "public good" blanket is held to cover information and entertainment. That is to say, the letter columns are not an uplift department, but a forum for discussion of all sorts of interesting matters.

I would rephrase your question:

"To what extent do you feel free not to print letters inimical to the public welfare?" Answer, 100 per cent. We try to be very careful in our judgment, so as not to stamp as injurious to the public a letter we just happen to disapprove. No reader is required to conform his expressions to Bulletin policy, or to refrain from criticism, however sharp.

Fairness and integrity are essential to the conduct of a letter column. To prevent perversion of the purposes of such a forum by persons with axes to grind is not an interference with freedom of the press. There is no constitutional guarantee of the right of any citizen to the free use of advertising space.

(Correction accepted. The phrasing should have been 'inimical' instead of 'not conducive' to the public good.)

Propaganda Is Permitted Only So It Can Be Answered

• By WALTER R. HUMPHREY, Editor
The Fort Worth Press

I DON'T BELIEVE that any newspaper should permit anyone, no matter what his political color may be to 'use' the columns of the paper. This applies to letters as well as stories.

I believe all letters should be watched carefully and that our columns should not be opened to propagandists operating under the cloak of free speech.

While letters should be edited as to length, libel and good taste, and while some control should be exercised by the editor, I think at the same time that some of this Communist propaganda should be permitted in letters to the editor so that it may be answered . . . and so that the identity of those spreading it may be known.

There is no obligation to run everybody's letter. The letter column still must be subject to editorial judgment.

Contributions Are Edited In Knoxville News-Sentinel

• By LOYE W. MILLER, Editor
The Knoxville News-Sentinel

WE FEEL absolutely free not to print letters that we think are not conducive to the public good. Letters, like everything else that goes in this paper, are subject to editing. If we think they are not pertinent or are inflammatory without due provocation, we either reject them altogether or cut out what we see fit. Of course this does not mean that we reject anything because it is the opposite of our own opinion. Indeed, we lean over backward to give the opposite view a break.

We reject *per se* any letters that are inspired; also any that come from folks outside our circulation area unless they make a point we think is of extraordinary interest and good policy as a suggestion. We hold that we have an obligation to our readers to let them express themselves, but not any obligation to anybody else.

Chessman Rejects Subversive Letters With Free Conscience

• By MERLE R. CHESSMAN,
Editor and Publisher
The Astorian (Ore.) Budget

FOR 27 YEARS I have been editor and publisher of a newspaper in a community where there has been a small but active Communist organization and have had to face this question (subversive letters) practically more than once.

I have never hesitated to reject letters to the editor which are plainly and openly subversive in their sentiments upon the theory that such matter attacks the foundation of the government which guarantees the free press.

Occasionally I have accepted for publication a letter from a known Communist when the sentiments expressed are so artfully phrased as not to be too offensive, but have learned that this merely constitutes an approach. Invariably the publication of such a letter has resulted in a flood of other letters from the same source. This is in conformance with the well known technique of such groups.

One does not have to have a great deal of experience to recognize whether or not such a letter is a spontaneous expression of an individual or a product of an organized movement. The policy I have been practicing has not embarrassed me and neither has it troubled my conscience.

I do not believe that a newspaper, dedicated though it is to the preservation of the freedom of the press, is obligated to accept for publication, propaganda plainly attacking the tenets of our constitutional government.

Reichler Talks Civics

OXIE REICHLER, editor of The Yonkers Herald Statesman, will make two addresses at the National Conference of Government of the National Municipal League in Philadelphia this month.

He will address the general conference session, Nov. 12, on "The Local Press as a Civic Force." The following day he will speak before the Proportional Representation League on "The Politician Hates P. R."

ICE CREAM BUILDS GOOD WILL

Charleston Post Concluded Newspaper Week Tours Through Plant with Refreshments for Children

FREE ICE CREAM and visitors' names on slugs of type were among the features of the Newspaper Week observance of The Charleston Evening Post. R. M. Hitt, Jr., managing editor, found everyone eager to learn more about how a newspaper operates; and to his surprise, that interest was shared by the newspaper staff.



R. M. HITT, Jr.

A small box on page one, running only a couple of days before Newspaper Week began, invited readers to inspect the plant. Daily tours were conducted, beginning in the business office at 2:15 and ending in the press room as the 3 o'clock edition began to roll.

People assembling in the business office received small envelopes on which they were asked to print their names. Upon completion of the tour each envelope was returned to its addressee with a slug of type bearing his name enclosed.

In order to handle the crowds in comparative quiet while guides explained the operations, a page form, mats, a page plate and other exhibits were set up in the newsroom. While parties were taken through the composing room and stereotype department later, it was easier to explain

their operation without the crash and bang of machinery interfering.

In addition to the public tours, given only during Newspaper Week, special appointments were made for school groups. An ice cream bar was set up just outside the press room exit, and as the youngsters filed by they received ice cream to eat as they watched the presses roll.

"This will have run to a thousand cups of ice cream or more," Mr. Hitt says, "but I feel we bought more good will with that money than any we've ever spent. We have had scores of letters from the kids. They really appreciated it."

The staff pitched in to serve as guides and everyone seems to have enjoyed the affair, including Mr. Hitt.

"On one of the first tours," he says, "I was barking away at my audience and as we moved from one department to the other I noticed that the secretary to one of our editors had joined the crowd. When I spoke to her, she said:

"I hope you don't mind me joining the tour. I've been wanting to know how we operated for a long time."

"I don't know how long this lady had been working here but she was on the premises when I came to the newspaper office in 1936.

"This gave me an idea and, upon investigation, I was amazed to learn the number of business office and advertising department employees who had not the faintest idea as to what was done in the composing room, or where it is located, for that matter. We plan to give quickie tours to all new employees in the future. From the look of things we'll need extra guides in 1947."

B. M. McKelway Promoted

THE Board of Directors of The Evening Star Newspaper Company on Oct. 29 elected B. M. McKelway as editor, succeeding the late Theodore W. Noyes. Mr. McKelway had been associate editor since 1942 and previously managing editor.

In accordance with Mr. McKelway's wishes, The Star carried only a box announcing his elevation to the editorship.

South Bend Tribune Conducts Contest For Carriers' Parents

THE South Bend Tribune is among the newspapers that gives public relations, from every possible angle, constant attention throughout the year. Its latest venture was a contest for parents of carrier boys, with a Savings Bond offered for the best letter answering the question, "What benefits has your son derived from carrying The Tribune?"

The contest also tied in with a project in which F. A. Miller, publisher, has a deep interest—combating juvenile delinquency. Chief judge of the contest was Judge J. Clifford Potts of the St. Joseph County Juvenile who commented:

"I know of no finer training for a teen aged boy than to deliver newspapers. Experience in court shows that much of the trend toward delinquency grows out of inactivity. The graph of delinquency during the school year has a sharp upward turn between the close of school at 3:30 in the afternoon and the customary dinner hour. If a boy is engaged in delivering newspapers during those hours his mind is turned from any suggestion that would lead him toward delinquency."

The prize winner was a Methodist pastor whose son has been a Tribune carrier three years. The Tribune influence, his letter said, goes hand in hand with that of the school, the church and the home. He also paid tribute to the personal interest that Mr. Miller and his staff have taken in all the boys.

Keller Resigns from ASNE

OLIVER J. KELLER, former editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, has moved to Springfield, Ill., to become head of Station WTAX, which he recently purchased.

Tendering his resignation to ASNE, he says, "I am stepping out before I am thrown out, since I know the rules and believe in abiding by them."

This is in accordance with the bylaws which state that any member who ceases to be eligible shall forfeit his rights in the Society.

Any member whose changed status makes him ineligible is requested to follow Mr. Keller's suit and submit his resignation to the Treasurer.

Plainfield Readers Find Heads Easier to Criticize than Write

LIKE any other city, Plainfield, N. J., has its share of persons who feel they know more about putting out a newspaper than newspapermen do. Turning the tables on them, The



PAUL E. SMITH

Courier-News invited a selected group to get out their own newspaper as a feature of National Newspaper Week. The eight-page tabloid they produced was inserted in the regular edition on October 4.

"After a night's work," says Paul E. Smith, managing editor, "they all agreed they wouldn't change places with us."

While Mr. Smith lays no claim to doing anything startlingly new in connection with the annual observance, he and his staff did dress up some of the old stunts, carrying them through with a thoroughness bound to be effective. "The results," he says, "still are apparent by the favorable comment we hear on the streets."

From Sept. 30 through Oct. 8, The Courier-News carried the slogan, "Newspaper Week—A Free Press is the Voice of Freedom and the Guardian of Liberty" in a Page One ear. During that time the paper also ran stories, on the front page and inside, on every possible angle of the observance, from letters from state and city officials to articles on the operation of a newspaper and interviews with successful Plainfielders who started their careers as carrier boys.

A half century ago the "Little Merchants" were an important adjunct of a newspaper and The Courier-News printed a four column cut of the carrier boys of the Plainfield Daily Press in 1898, complete with high collars and hair parted in the middle. They were photographed with Chauncey F. Stout, then circulation manager of the Press, now publisher of The Courier-News.

Of all its promotion, two features stand out as unique. One is a booklet, "Your Faithful Carrier Boy," written by a model carrier who shortly afterwards was killed in a hunting accident. It had been submitted as a composition to his English teacher, who took it to The Courier-News for possible publication in the paper. Harold Keenan, city editor, recognized its promotional possibilities and it was issued instead as a booklet.

The other feature lends itself to 1947 Newspaper Week promotion anywhere. During the year The Courier-News keeps an accurate count of the space it gives to civic groups and agencies in the area. The total count was published in the paper in two-column measure: "Boy and Girl Scouts—5,193 inches of news; one editorial; 26 half-column cuts; 6 two-column cuts; 6 three-column cuts," and so on down the list of worthy activities.

With the amount of attention he gave Newspaper Week, Mr. Smith seemed well-equipped to tell what newspapers can do to sustain, year-round, the goodwill built up in that week.

"We try to do this," Mr. Smith says, "although we have not adopted any set program. We publish at least once a week an invitation to readers to visit our plant and learn what makes a newspaper 'tick.' We average about 50 visitors a week, mostly from schools.

"We never miss a chance to publish anything promoting newspapers, and we also invite criticism in the form of letters which are published regardless of how much they take us to task. In instances where we feel the letter should be answered, we add an Editor's note giving our side of the question. We never argue with the writer.

"I do feel every editor should be alert to promote anything which will help the general public understand our problems. I might suggest that ASNE do something in mapping a program for its members. The ANPA is forever blasting the merits of newspapers in general—but from the editorial standpoint editors have been lax in joining the band wagon and broadcasting their part in daily affairs. This might be a topic sometime at one of our meetings."

Selectivity Essential In Aid to Civic Affairs Says Jack Thompson

• BY JACK B. THOMPSON
Chief Editorial Writer
Chester Times

THERE ARE TIMES when I feel that we would be able to turn out a much better newspaper if we could take a completely objective view of all civic affairs, even though "civic affairs" are in line with the accepted definition, and are in the general public interest.

On the other hand, participation in civic affairs provides invaluable associations with local citizens and is productive of news copy which might otherwise be missed.

During the war years, with so many men away, it was difficult to turn down requests to participate in affairs, to be a member of this or that committee. Frequently we were placed in the position of having a hand in making the news, then dashing back to the office to write it. This certainly isn't conducive to objective reporting.

Now that there are more men back on the local scene, we expect to be called on less frequently. And when called on, we hope to arrange for a staff member to cover the project so that we shall be free to be a news-maker without at the same time being a press agent or propagandist.

Editors are fulfilling a civic responsibility when they turn out a newspaper which faithfully reports the activities of the citizens of the community, with emphasis on those activities which have an effect on numbers of citizens. We could probably "beg off" on this ground, when asked to take a hand in a civic project. But it is quite difficult in a city the size of ours.

The problem must necessarily be reduced to one of selecting the civic affairs to which we feel we can contribute the most. We hope the time will never come when promoters of civic projects do not call us in on their problems, or call on us with their ideas. We find we can take time for civic affairs, with careful management of our time.

(This concludes the discussion, in recent issues, of whether editors can afford time for extra-curricular activities.)

EACH YEAR editors see greater possibilities in building good will through Newspaper Week observances. What two members, R. M. Hitt, Jr. and Paul E. Smith, did this year is told on these pages. Now Dr. C. Sylvester Green, editor of The Durham Herald, suggests a discussion of what newspapers can do to sustain throughout the year the special emphasis of Newspaper Week. That question is herewith thrown open for discussion next month.

VARIETY ON EDITORIAL PAGE

Minneapolis Star and Tribune Offers Daily Digest;
Each Day of Week Has Its Own Source Material

• By GIDEON SEYMOUR, Executive Editor
Minneapolis Star and Tribune

WE INAUGURATED in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune several months ago a daily digest of comment and opinion which covers a different field each day.

On Monday it rounds up Minnesota press comment on current affairs—usually state issues.

On Tuesday it thumbnails the most significant articles of the week in the national magazines of top circulation or prestige—or in lesser magazines, if we come against something which seems to us to have high significance or interest. We take a fairly careful look at about 75 magazines every month.

On Wednesday it tells what the outstanding radio commentators of the country have been talking about in the previous seven days.

On Thursday the column deals with what the newspaper commentators are saying—Pegler, Dorothy Thompson, Mark Sullivan, Samuel Grafton and any others whose columns our papers do not use.

On Friday we round up the comment on the nation's press on a leading issue or two of the week.

On Saturday we bring readers comment from the world press on a leading issue or two of the week.

On Saturday we bring readers comment from the world press—dailies in Great Britain, Argentina and Canada, for example; leading weeklies like The Economist and the New Statesman and Nation of London, Manana of Mexico City and some of the better French journals of opinion. We have our news desks watch the wire services for material for this column—they often bring in stories about what the press of Russia and other countries is saying about current issues and this, while there often may not be room for it in the news columns, helps round out such a weekly column.

The column is conducted for us by Hal Bjornson of The Tribune editorial page staff, who devotes his full time to it.

This is a variation, of course, of what New York PM and the New York Post do. We started it here because we feel that we have a responsi-

bility to tell our readers what is being said by leading commentators on the radio and by those in the newspaper field whose columns we do not carry; and because we feel the magazines are full of good things which ought to be called to the attention of a wider public, which then can go to the source and read in full anything that interests them; and finally because we find that covering Minnesota press comment (with mention of each editor by name, wherever possible) is a great good will builder for us around the state and also helps to break down the barrier between the city and its hinterland which confronts almost every large city in the country.

A man who produces a column daily has, of course, to be a horse for work and to keep his nose to the grindstone, no matter how much help he gets (as Bjornson does) from colleagues. But I have come to regard such a column as a must for a newspaper which has, as most do, to combat the frequent charge that it tells its readers on its editorial page about only those views which it wishes them to accept.

We have had a number of inquiries as to whether we would syndicate Bjornson's column or make it available to other newspapers. I have been chary about doing so because some magazines and commentators would surely take a dim view of our doing so; but a case could be made, at least in the magazine field, that such a column stimulates rather than lessens reading of the people and publications which it mentions. I think some day we or somebody else could make a good thing of syndicating such a digest.

Nothing we have done on our editorial pages in several years has prompted so much commendatory comment from readers.

A MEMBER SUGGESTS a discussion of "anything dealing with the editorial page, but preferably precise information, precise experiences, precise changes—not comfortable generalities with which every editor is familiar." By request, Mr. Seymour has provided precisely the information our member wants; the quest for other new ideas will continue next month.

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Interpretive Articles Supplement Editorials

TWO INNOVATIONS have been made recently in the editorial page of The Birmingham News.

The masthead information has been placed in the lower right corner of the page, where it serves adequately for reference. This opens up space for the lead editorial, under a two-column head, at the top left of the page.

The News also has adopted a regular practice of running interpretive by-line articles by its own editorial writers on the page. "These articles," says McClellan VanderVeer, chief editorial writer, "allow for fuller interpretive and informational treatment than the editorial of average length permits."

An opposite editorial page also has been started, where certain features are anchored daily for better display and the convenience of readers.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 280

December 1, 1946

Gary Post-Tribune's Experiment In Banning 'Negro' Label Succeeds

• By H. B. SNYDER, Editor
The Gary Post-Tribune

TWO YEARS AGO, following a personal study of the Negro problem (of first importance in Gary because its proportion of Negroes is the largest of any northern city, 20 per cent) I determined to try something different.

For years we had been running a segregated column, "News of Gary's Negro Citizens." Moderate criticisms had been heard but, following my study, they took on new values. I determined to do away with the column but that left a vacuum—no Negro news.

Then the thought of a Negro reporter entered my mind. But there was none. We decided to try to develop one. With Negro help we located a girl graduate of the state university, one who had had office experience with whites. Before definitely offering her the job I put the problem up to the news room. "You must say you want her," I said. "This is your job as much as it is mine." The word came back she would be accepted.

During the two years the relationship with the Negro reporter has been a happy one. Furthermore she is developing into a good reporter. Curiously not one unpleasant incident has happened either in the office or out.

But probably the most important part of this experiment was the decision to stop labeling Negroes in the news. Today you may not know whether you are reading about a Negro, any more than you have ever known you were reading about a Greek, Hungarian or Frenchman, unless that information is needed for the story's meaning.

I would be disingenuous if I did not add that this new policy has

excited some adverse feeling. In a recent readership survey it was the chief criticism expressed. Many whites wanted to know whether they were reading about whites or Negroes, they wanted Negro news on a page of its own, they wanted the Negro segregated.

Following the robbery and murder of a white man by two Negro prostitutes our story did not use the racial label. One aroused customer rang up the publisher to ask why we were suppressing the news while a certain well known newspaper namesake in

Seattle Papers Win Permission to Take Court Pictures on 'By-your-leave' Basis

• By R. L. McGRATH, Managing Editor
The Seattle Times

ANSWERING your query about courtroom photography:

Seattle is one of the cities where little progress has been made, but there's hope.

The three newspapers conferred with Presiding Judge Robert M. Jones of the King County Superior Court recently, presenting our side of the problem and comparing notes with him. We asked for an arrangement by which pictures could be taken on a "by-your-leave" basis. The judge agreed that such an understanding could be reached. He is one of the conservatives who have frowned on courtroom photography for many years, by the way.

Judge Jones outlined the objections to photographic activities that disturb the decorum of courts, conceivably impede trials by antagonizing witnesses, etc., and expose trial judges to possible rebuke and reversal by appellate courts for abridging defendants' rights.

It might be added that our mission-

Chicago was publishing the truth.

Gary Negroes are highly pleased with the new policy. To a degree they take it as giving them an improved status. It may be the most meaningful happening to them in Gary's history.

I can see no weakness in the policy. Some whites don't like it but it is surprising how many do, seemingly a considerable majority. And many of those who don't like it admit it is the right thing to do. Gradually, I believe, the critics will cease to notice or remember.

We are still segregated in one department—the so-called society page. I wonder if it shouldn't be abolished too?

any work hereabouts hasn't been helped much by cameramen who have tried to bully or trick principals and/or court attendants into pictures. Such assignments call for courtesy and tact; it's a job of salesmanship.

We proposed that we seek permission of defendants, or their lawyers, where there is any question as to guilt. A notorious criminal isn't entitled to the same consideration as a citizen presumed to be innocent. Witnesses will be given a chance to veto photography that might embarrass or conceivably endanger them. And the burden of proving that pictures can be taken without disturbing the court will be upon the photographer. That seems fair enough.

AT THE SPRING convention, the Society passed a resolution urging members to do what they can in their own cities to liberalize current rulings on photographic reporting of important judicial proceedings. Of 25 members queried for progress reports Mr. McGrath was the only one to report progress!

MEMBERS' VIEWS ON ELIGIBILITY

Herbert Suggests We Limit Membership Strictly
But Welcome Qualified Non-Members at Meetings

• By JOHN R. HERBERT, Managing Editor
The Quincy Patriot Ledger

SERVICE CLUB or professional society?

This is the issue facing the American Society of Newspaper Editors with respect to membership restrictions.

"One trouble" according to an ASNE member, "is that you can't hue the line as you might in a medical or legal association because there just is no clear cut definition of an editor."

The government, however, doesn't get the least bit embarrassed about trying to define an editor. If you have two dollars you can purchase from the Government Printing Office a book with a typical government title: "Dictionary of Occupational Titles of the Job Analysis and Information Section of the Division of Standards and Research of the United States Department of Labor." If you thumb through and look up the word "Editor" you find the following definition: "Directs the entire editorial and reportorial policy of the newspaper, acting as the direct representative of the owner; appoints editorial heads; writes leading or policy editorials; directs and supervises departmental editors."

It would seem that if the government can define an editor, our organization should likewise find a proper description for prospective members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Some new members easily fall within the membership category but the borderline cases cause the trouble. However, the Society should be strict in its interpretation of membership restrictions. We should consider ourselves as a professional society, rather than degenerating into a service club with requirements so loose they can be interpreted to admit just about anyone to membership.

If you analyze the American Society of Newspaper Editors, you find that it has approximately three functions: first, to conduct an annual meeting; second, publication of the monthly Bulletin; and third (and perhaps most important) to be spokesman for American newspaper editors. Be-

cause the annual meetings are becoming more and more worthwhile, interest in them is increasing and there is a desire on the part of many persons to attend and these same persons think that the only way to gain admission to the meetings is to join the Society. Can we meet the membership problem by making use of the widespread interest in our meetings? Let us liberalize and clarify the rules for admission to sessions at the Society's annual meeting.

As it stands today no one knows whether or not guests are allowed to attend meetings. Sometimes wives or other guests attend functions, sometimes they don't, but it is never clear as to whether they have a right to be present. There is a terrific amount of confusion over this. The procedure is clear only for off the record meetings. Now as far as actual membership is concerned, the present restrictions for membership should continue. Admittedly there are many ineligible persons who might make good members and whose prestige might add considerably to the Society but why make our membership basis seem ridiculous?

The American Medical Association might feel proud to have the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as a member simply from a prestige point of view but this wouldn't make any particular sense from a professional point of view. So let's be tough about our membership requirements. But, on the other hand, we should extend a welcome to certain non-members to attend our annual meeting. For instance, it would be an excellent move, for obvious reasons, to invite non-member publishers to attend. The same thing holds true for journalism professors. Our Society has tried to work closely with journalism schools on the problem of professional education for journalism; now let's show the professors what we are trying to accomplish at annual meetings.

In the case of members who retire, provided their retirement is strictly this and nothing more, we could vote past-service membership at no cost.

ASNE BY-LAWS set stringent limits for membership but, to strengthen the Society, past Boards have sometimes put a liberal construction on the definition of 'editor.' In which direction should future policy lean?

Your Eligibility Committee, headed by Secretary Dwight Young, will submit its recommendations to the Board this month. Meanwhile several members' views are presented here.

Grier Advocates Retention Of Worthy Former Members

• By A. O. H. GRIER, Editor
Wilmington (Del.) Journal Every-Evening

ACTION of the Society at the Washington meeting in April, declining to retain, with associate relationship, former members who have reverted to ineligible status, rules out some leaders in the profession who helped to build our Society and maintain the force it has become. I know several who have made splendid contributions to our organization and to the field of journalism as well.

As one member who has enjoyed their association and profited by their wise counsel over the years, I feel that something is missing when they are absent from our meetings.

As the constitution reads, there is no help for this situation. And yet it seems that a way might be found to provide for the retention, with associate, inactive relationship, of former outstanding members desiring to continue when, in the discretion of the Board of Directors, the door should be open to them. Some of our former members have gained distinction, honoring not only themselves but also our Society and the business with which we are concerned.

The Board of Directors has authority to elect to full membership "any newspaperman who shall have distinguished himself in the public service or in the profession of journalism."

This, of course, contemplates continuing eligibility for some members but perhaps the subject of retention of former worthy members merits more consideration than it seems to have received.

Close-Knit Group More Desirable Than Mere Size Says Kirchhofer

• By A. H. KIRCHHOFER, Managing Editor
Buffalo Evening News

APPOINTMENT of the Society's new eligibility committee suggests that we have arrived at the point where more careful scrutiny should be given to membership applications and policy. The fact is, of course, that for many years the directors have given considerable thought to eligibility, though in the absence of a clear-cut code on the subject interpretations have been many, varied and often contradictory.

It seems to be very much in the interests of a stabilized Society that we have definite membership standards, and that they be allowed to operate as a matter of principle and not by personal preference. If this isn't done, we shall find one of these days that we have a large membership of newspapermen with divergent interests rather than a closely-knit group held together by the similarity of their problems.

This raises the question:

Should ASNE become an all-inclusive editorial society, or should the original concept of the founders' that membership be limited to representatives of papers in the larger cities—not necessarily the larger papers—be adhered to more strongly than it has been in the past?

My view is that the Society best serves the interest of its membership, if that membership is constituted of persons having approximately the same interests and problems. That is to say, the requirement that membership should be limited to papers in cities of 50,000, with the few specified exceptions for notable journalistic endeavor, still is profoundly valid.

We should guard the integrity of our membership and our membership

requirements most carefully. Mere size should not be the prime objective in an organization such as ASNE. If it be considered desirable to include other qualified representatives from the papers within the population range, there can be little objection to that, because they would have the same interests that others in the same categories from eligible papers would have. But the job should be clearly defined and the title should not be created to cover easy admission to the Society.

The question should be quite as much, "What can he contribute to the progress of the Society?" as "What can get he out of it?"

In spite of the sentimental regard and high esteem we have for former members of the Society, now engaged in other activities, it would be a mistake to continue them in the membership once they depart from newspaper work. Limiting our membership to persons directly engaged in newspaper work involves the vitality and validity of the Society. The Society has provision for adding to its rolls honorary members who have distinguished themselves in journalism. The power to do so should be used sparingly.

Having such a homogeneous membership also would encourage allotment of time for shop talks to consider the profound problems that beset every editorial office in these days. Members want them, but many feel too little opportunity is available to consider technical and editorial subjects. Perhaps the time has come to limit the appearance of off-the-record speakers who add little to our knowledge and in some cases may be said to use our meetings for a sounding board.

Two Resignations Submitted

IN ACCORDANCE with the by-laws, two members this month have submitted their resignations: W. W. Waymack, who left the Des Moines Register and Tribune, to serve on the Atomic Energy Commission; and Edward F. Bataille, who joined the editorial staff of the Newark Evening News when the Newark Sunday Call suspended.

Gilmore Suggests Rigid Adherence To Constitution

ARGUING in favor of strict enforcement of the by-laws in regard to membership, W. S. Gilmore, editor of The Detroit News, points out that in the early days of the Society the directors invited to membership a number of gentlemen who did not meet the requirements but whose assistance was needed in building up the organization.

They, of course, have a rightful place in the Society Mr. Gilmore says, "but I think it would be better for the future of the Society to follow rigidly the Constitution in selecting new members."

"Moreover, I think a member who ceases to be eligible through change of duties should resign at once, if only to make room for some other person who at the same time became eligible."

Paragraph 1 of Article 2 of the by-laws confines membership to "Persons of suitable qualifications who are directing editors, that is to say, editors in chief, editorial editors, and managing editors having immediate charge of editorial or news policies of daily newspapers, which, in the opinion of the directors, shall have attained the ranks and standards of the metropolitan press, are eligible to membership."

That, Mr. Gilmore believes, is still a sound basis for election to membership.

"If the Society is to live and be a factor in the cause of better newspaper work, then its affairs must be managed by men whose first interest is in the news and editorial departments of newspapers. At the same time, I think the privilege of attendance at sessions of the annual meeting should be extended to former members. The point is that direction of the affairs of the Society would remain entirely in the hands of 'directing editors, that is to say, editors in chief, editorial editors, and managing editors' as the Constitution describes them."

As to the Distinguished Service clause, under which some former members have been retained when they were no longer eligible, Mr. Gilmore recommends that it be applied as it has been in the past—sparingly.

STAND with ol' Chief Justice John Marshall, four-square to the winds, for a liberal construction of the Constitution.

MALCOLM W. BINGAY,
Editorial Director,
The Detroit Free Press

In Memoriam

WALDO ROBERT ARNOLD

"Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worth the name." (From Article IV, Canons of Journalism of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.)

WALDO ROBERT ARNOLD devoted his professional life singly to keeping faith with the reader. None could more earnestly and loyally have exemplified the Code of Ethics to which he subscribed when he became a member of The American Society of Newspaper Editors a decade ago.

Waldo Arnold brought to journalism a logical and practical mind and an indefatigable spirit and body. All these he dedicated without reserve to his work. His was not a theoretical journalism. He believed in applied decency and he made it work. He had nothing of lip-service. Many hair-line situations arise in actual newspapermaking. His decisions always were prompt and always they leaned toward strict construction though it often meant sacrifice of elements that might be attractive to less sincere editors. He never compromised with his conscience.

Mr. Arnold came to The Milwaukee Journal from the School of Journalism of the University of Wisconsin in 1917. In 1918 he enlisted in the Army and served a year in France in World War I. Upon his discharge he returned to The Journal and was a member of its staff without interruption until his death November 7.

In 1919 he became telegraph editor and some two years later he was made news editor, in which position his work was so outstanding and his judgment so sound that the position of assistant managing editor was created for him, and shortly thereafter he succeeded to the managing editorship. That position he filled with distinction throughout the trying times of World War II and up to the day death struck him.

Waldo Arnold had a keen sense of news. No difficulties lessened his ardor for a good story, but the story must be true and fair and decent. He had a quick intuition for truth, fairness and decency. He drove himself unsparingly. But he was always the considerate if exacting taskmaster. He was not a newspaperman of the "Front Page" school and had no patience with it.

Waldo Arnold had the instincts of a gentleman.

MARVIN H. CREAGER, Milwaukee Journal

★ ★ Notes on ASNE Members ★ ★

APPENDICITIS seems to be an occupational disease among managing editors of Knight Newspapers. Lee Hills, m. e. of the Miami Herald, had just returned from a trip to the Army occupation zones in Europe when he was sent to the hospital with an acute attack of appendicitis. He was still recovering from an operation when Dale Stafford, m. e. of the Detroit Free Press, was similarly stricken. Both have now satisfactorily recovered.

Lewis R. Hovey, publisher of the Haverhill Sunday Record and the Beverly Evening Times, this year observed his 50th anniversary as a newspaperman. He recently recounted memories of those years at a meeting of the Ipswich (Mass.) Rotary Club. Forrest W. Seymour, associate

editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, has been named editor of the editorial page following the resignation of W. W. Waymack as editor.

Oscar S. Stauffer, editor of The Topeka State Journal, has compiled his impressions of a trip through British occupied Germany in a 70 page booklet titled, "In the Wake of War—1946." The articles, written daily as the tour progressed, sum up Mr. Stauffer's observations from "1000 Trucks and 55 Years Needed to Clean up Cologne," to "Hope is Scarce than Food in Germany Today." The booklet ends on a note of hope: "The Chances Are Against War with Russia." It's possible, of course, he admits, but not probable.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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1st VICE PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD Cleveland News

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN D. CANHAM Christian Science Monitor

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No. 280 December 1, 1947

California Member Dies Following Long Illness

CHARLES J. LILLEY, editor and general manager of the Sacramento Union, died in his sleep Nov. 18 after a protracted illness. Suffering from heart trouble much of last year, he nevertheless carried on his daily column, writing from his bed at home and in the hospital.

Although elected to ASNE only recently, he was well known to many members of the Society, particularly in the West where he had been active in newspaper affairs. For five years he was a member of the executive committee of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, and he had been scheduled to preside over the Los Angeles meeting of the California-Nevada Associated Press late last month. However, after a check-up at La Jolla Sanitarium his doctors agreed to the trip only if he limited his attendance to the unit sessions of November 30.

Once managing editor of the Cleveland Press, he had also worked on the St. Louis Republic, the San Bernardino Index, Los Angeles Record and Houston Press and had served as a writer for Scripps Howard Alliance until, in 1930, he joined the staff of The Union and settled in Sacramento

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 281

January 1, 1947

BOARD HOLDS TWO-DAY MEETING

Date Set for Convention, Tentative Plans Under Way;
Fight for Freedom of Information to Continue

THE BOARD of Directors of the ASNE held its semi-annual meeting in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., on December 13 and 14, with President Forrest presiding and every member of the Board in attendance.

The date of the spring convention in Washington was set for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 17, 18 and 19—subject to change but with less chance of it now that the war is over.

Howard Report Accepted

The Board accepted the report of the special committee appointed to investigate world news dissemination, of which N. R. Howard was chairman. Uncertainties in international relations, the committee agreed, justify an effort by our government to make its policies clear to the people of the world through the agency set up in the State Department; but recognizing the dangers inherent in governmental dissemination of news it suggested appointment of a committee to make a continuing study of the situation. A summary of the report was carried on the wire services and the complete text appeared in Editor & Publisher for December 14.

In line with the committee's suggestion, President Forrest appointed a standing committee to review regularly the character of the news disseminated by the State Department and named the following members to it:

New Committee Named

HAMILTON OWENS, Editor, Baltimore Sun, chairman.

EDWIN L. JAMES, Managing Editor, The New York Times.

GEORGE A. CORNISH, Managing Editor, New York Herald Tribune.

B. M. McKELWAY, Editor, The Washington Star.

The Board agreed that a resolution on world freedom of information was in order but the wording of it occa-

sioned a two-way tussle between the President and First Vice President. N. R. Howard maintained that the Board should record its pride and appreciation in the magnificent job Mr. Forrest has done in getting statements on freedom of information from governors of our own states and from high officials of other nations and for his constant energetic endeavor in this cause. Modest and realistic, Mr. Forrest contended that the light flickers too dimly in too many countries for genuine satisfaction at this time, and urged a resolution pointing to the work still to be done. A compromise resolution took cognizance of both Mr. Forrest's effort and of the fact that in many countries freedom of news is largely non-existent. (Complete text next page.)

Study to be Made

Viewing potential threats to a free press at home the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Board ask the Resolutions Committee to make a careful study of the relation of the government's licensing powers (including those relating to radio and the second class mailing privilege) to freedom of speech and the press. The study thus made should be reported to the full membership of the Society at its annual meeting in April.

Working With UNESCO

Erwin D. Canham, ASNE representative on the U. S. Committee of 100 for UNESCO, explained the objectives of the national committee. Plans call for regional meetings to be held later which will be of local interest to members in every part of the

country, he said, and promised a full report to be submitted to the membership through The Bulletin.

President Forrest asked for nominations for juries for Pulitzer awards in newspaper classifications. Under a plan proposed by Dean Carl W. Ackerman of the Graduate School of Journalism, the 16 advisers in these categories will be drawn exclusively from the roster of the Society. The Board stipulated that Mr. Forrest himself serve, and appoint the other 15 jury members from the names submitted by the Directors.

Finances and Other Affairs

B. M. McKelway, treasurer, reported that financially the Society is holding its own against the rising tide of expenditures but no more. The Board voted to increase the salary of the editor of The Bulletin to \$5000 a year; and to make a second annual payment of \$400 to the accrediting program of the American Council for Education in Journalism on which the Society is represented by Dwight Marvin, Troy Record. Convention expenses (also rising) were discussed but left in abeyance until the Washington Committee can ascertain precisely what they will be in April 1947.

The program for that meeting, eligibility, election of new members and other matters considered are covered elsewhere in this issue.

EDWIN D. CANHAM, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, can't answer a question addressed to him recently; nor could his fellow-members on the Board supply the information.

A letter from the Ottawa (Can.) Journal asked the derivation of the term "bull-dog edition."

Any member who knows the answer or cares to make even a wild guess will please advise The Bulletin.

Why Meetings Never Start on Time

OVERHEARD in the Statler lobby:

Roy Roberts, glancing at clock: "I need a shave but we'd better be getting upstairs. The directors' meeting is called for nine."

Dwight Perrin: "No, the meeting is scheduled for ten."

Roy Roberts: "It is? Why it's only ten o'clock now. I'll have time to go to the barber shop first."

Foreign Guests Invited to Convention Will be Limited to This Hemisphere

GONE are the days when the program chairman arranged the annual program single-handed, or with the help of a few committee members. In recent years, the entire Board of Directors gives serious consideration to the theme of the annual meeting and the selection of subjects deemed most vital for discussion. The 1947 chairman is Alexander F. Jones, The Washington Post, and while ultimate decisions rest with him, he will shape the program for the 25th anniversary meeting very largely from the suggestions brought up.

Asked for his opinions, Mr. Jones said the most important thing the Society can do is to keep the fight for freedom of information alive, and that the convention should in some way further that fight. The Society, he said, should certainly keep in touch with countries that are battling valiantly for that freedom and suggested that several foreign editors be invited to take part in the spring meeting. The Board concurred and decided that the '47 guests should be confined to the western hemisphere.

Mr. Jones asked the Board whether they felt the sessions with Congressional leaders were worth while and should be continued in some form. For reply he received a hearty affirmative.

As chairman of the Editorial Page Committee, Virginius Dabney, Richmond Times-Dispatch, reported on tentative plans for a session on the editorial page which he had drawn up after correspondence with his committee. Editorials, columns and letters to the editor would be covered, Mr. Dabney said, with attention to the individual problems of small and large papers. This is planned as a panel discussion but working out of details was left to Mr. Dabney.

Other suggestions ran the gamut from

newspaper strikes and adequate coverage of labor news to newspaper ethics and how to build and maintain staffs of high calibre.

The traditional meeting with the President, and conferences with government leaders which members count as highlights of their Washington visit will be scheduled as usual. However, President Forrest expressed a determination to keep off the record meetings to an absolute minimum, and the hope that there might be none at all. The Board agreed that the 1947 program would be comprised largely of shop talks and panel discussions—and this time they sounded as if they meant it.

A decision on whether wives could attend convention luncheons hinged mostly on space limitations. President Forrest was inclined to welcome interest from the distaff side but someone suggested "there'd be too many of them." When Wright Bryan pointed out that the normal limit is a wife per member, the Board agreed they should be permitted to attend providing such a plan proves feasible.

TREASURER, AS EXPECTED, REPORTS RISING COSTS

B. M. McKELWAY, treasurer, submitted a brief report on the financial condition of the Society, which showed a December balance of \$8,427.06. On April 1, 1946, the balance was \$10,610.77. Since then, income received has been \$14,827.41 and expenses paid, \$17,011.12.

In addition, the Society has \$2500 in U. S. Savings Bonds, and deposits in the Troy, N. Y. Savings Bank of \$1,962.52.

"The excess of expenses over income for the eight month period since April 1, 1946," Mr. McKelway explained, "is due to the cost of the convention, expenses of which were

RESOLUTION

(Adopted Dec. 14, 1946)

THE BOARD OF THE ASNE, because of its activity for two years past in the interests of world freedom of information, feels its responsibility for a regular report on progress on this vital issue. In the six months past, its president, Mr. Forrest, has worked tirelessly to marshal opinion behind this freedom. He has transmitted to the Assembly of the United Nations expressions of support from spokesmen for three of the Big Five allies—Secretary Byrnes, Prime Minister Atlee, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek—and from governments of the 48 states.

The Society, through its members, Mr. Canham, has participated in the indorsement by the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO of a program for world freedom of information.

Despite these efforts, the Board of the ASNE recognizes that very little progress has resulted. A large segment of the world's people still live in ignorance of the facts of the day, and the freedom of news originating in their countries is largely non-existent. To date, the United Nations organizations have done virtually nothing to advance this fundamental liberty.

Notwithstanding this apparent indifference by the United Nations, the American Society of Newspaper Editors reaffirms its deep interest in and devotion to the principle of freedom of world information and pledges itself to continue its efforts in this field until free dissemination of news throughout the world is fully achieved.

paid during this period, while over \$6,000 of convention income for the year was received prior to April 1, 1946."

The treasurer also reported 432 paid-up members, and three unpaid.

Mr. McKelway elicited some surprise when he asked that he be bonded. The purpose of the suggestion, he explained, was merely to conform to the Constitution, which requires it.

He also reported that the posthumous medals awarded at the last convention to correspondents killed in the way have all been distributed to the next of kin.

Eligibility Committee Recommends Strict Application of By-laws

THE BOARD of Directors received and discussed at length a report presented by Secretary Dwight Young as chairman of the Eligibility Committee appointed last year by President Forrest.

The question of eligibility, the unanimous report said, had been handled too loosely in the past, largely because each new membership chairman takes over with scant knowledge of what is expected of him and, quite naturally, is also eager to make a good showing. Arguing that present methods provide too little continuity to membership work, the committee recommended a standing committee to screen applicants submitted by the Membership Committee. The treasurer and secretary of the Society and the editor of The Bulletin were suggested for this committee because, by the nature of their duties, they must confer frequently on membership and eligibility questions as they pertain both to applicants and to members whose changed status makes them ineligible.

The Board voted to follow that procedure on the recommendation of Wright Bryan, Membership Chairman, who said that such advice would be of inestimable value to himself and succeeding chairmen. The function of the new committee is purely advisory; election of candidates and elimination of ineligible remains vested entirely in the Board of Directors.

Discussing the membership problem, the Board dismissed any suggestion of possible change in requirements as they stand in the by-laws, although it was pointed out that executive editors, for instance, are not included among those specified as admissible, the title having originated since the Constitution was written. Reviewing Par. I of Article II, Mr. Canham suggested that the phrase "directing editors, that is to say—" was illustrative, rather than exclusive, and that executive editors and other directing editors are clearly eligible under the by-laws as they stand. The Board agreed that under that interpretation no change is needed; that directing editors, whatever their titles are included; that men who do not meet that requirement are automatically excluded; and that this is in accordance with the intent of the founding fathers and the wishes of the current membership.

The Board voted to strike two members from the rolls as ineligible due to changed status: Russ Stewart, formerly managing editor of the Chicago Times, now general manager of the paper; and J. Noel Macy, president of Westchester County Newspapers, Inc., who is serving with the State Department and has recently been assigned to Cairo.

The Eligibility Committee, composed of Mr. Young, B. M. McKelway and Alice Fox Pitts, was instructed to scan the rolls for other ineligible and present a list for the consideration of the Board at its next meeting.

Three Members Retained For Distinguished Service

THREE MEMBERS whose retirement from their newspapers makes them ineligible for membership were re-elected to the Society under the distinguished service clause in the by-laws:

ARTHUR R. TREANOR, formerly vice president of Booth Newspapers, who served both newspapers and the government during the war as Director of the Printing and Publishing Division of the War Production Board. Mr. Treanor has retired from newspaper work.

WALTER M. HARRISON, formerly managing editor of the Oklahoma and Times, one of the first ASNE members to enlist in the Army, serving overseas as a lieutenant colonel; an early member of the Society, Mr. Harrison was president in 1928 and 1929.

Recently named assistant to the general manager of the New York Post, Mr. Harrison is not eligible for membership in that capacity.

EUGENE MEYER, owner of the Washington Post who has retired as its editor and publisher; Mr. Meyer has served in important government posts under six presidents, most recently as president of the World Bank.

Mr. Meyer relinquished the editorship of The Post and retired from active newspaper work several months ago.

This brings to eight the number of members on the rolls in this special category. The Board voted that henceforth such members should be so designated in the membership list in The Proceedings.

Five From Small Cities Among 15 Elected By Board of Directors

COGNIZANT of a strengthening determination on the part of the Board to keep ASNE a strictly editorial organization, Wright Bryan, Membership, Chairman presented a shorter list of applicants than has been usual in the past. Fifteen new members were elected by the Board, all of them meeting the membership requirements in toto. Borderline applicants were rejected, or deferred for further inquiry and consideration.

Ten editors were elected in cities of over 50,000 population:

RILEY H. ALLEN, Editor, The Star-Bulletin, Honolulu, T. H.

THOMAS J. BERRIGAN, Managing Editor, Niagara Falls Gazette.

HAROLD CASSILL, Managing Editor, Spokane Daily Chronicle.

JAMES E. CRAIG, Chief Editorial Writer, New York Sun.

JOHN F. DAY, JR., Managing Editor, Dayton Daily News.

JAMES R. DORAN, Executive Editor, The Union-Star Schenectady.

BEN B. JOHNSTON, Managing Editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch.

DAVID SILVERMAN, Managing Editor, The Minneapolis Star.

CHARLES R. CORBIN, Assistant Executive Editor, Minneapolis Star and Tribune.

LESTER MARKEL, Sunday Editor, The New York Times.

Seventeen applications were received from cities under 50,000 population, a group from which only five members can be admitted annually under the by-laws. Those elected are:

HODDING CARTER, Editor, Delta Democrat-Times, Greenville, Miss.

WILLIAM OBSORNE DAPPING, Editor, The Citizen-Advertiser, Auburn, New York.

JOSEPH AGOR, Editor, Shamokin News-Dispatch, Shamokin, Pa.

FRANK C. CLOUGH, Editor, Salinas California, and Editorial Director, Speidel Newspapers.

HENRY CLAY TATE, Editor, The Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, Ill.

In addition Don Morris, formerly editor of the West Palm Beach Post Times, was reinstated. He is now editor of the Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger.

Awakening Civic Sleepwalkers Cited as Job for Newspapers

AN ADDRESS made by Oxie Reichler, editor of the Yonkers Herald Statesman, at the National Conference of Government in Philadelphia would have been equally appropriate if it had been delivered at a convention of editors.



Speaking on "The Local Press as a Civic Force," Mr. Reichler's theme was that it is possible to jolt our citizenry into a lively interest in the government of their home communities—and that the newspaper is the logical agent for the job.

Citing a typical example of the average person's approach to civic affairs, he said, "A fellow citizen of mine was asked several years ago, 'What do you think of our city government?' His reply was, 'I try not to.'"

The Herald Statesman, Mr. Reichler said, is trying to make Yonkers a place where men and women no longer exclaim, "Why don't they do something about it!" and ask instead, "Why don't I do something about it?" He noted with satisfaction that other progressive newspapers are also trying to bring about that changed attitude. And yet, he said, discussions he reads or hears on the newspaper of the future deal almost entirely with mechanical progress.

"I regret to tell you that—in all this newspaper planning—I have found little or no indication that the local newspapers of America are girding themselves for that great American need—this civic awakening of our municipalities."

Politics, Mr. Reichler continued, too often has been a special possession of party machines although it is the concern of every citizen. He suggested that schools should begin to teach politics instead of what is now called civics, and that newspapers can provide the low-down on local political affairs even better than the schools. "If our boys and girls, our young

people," he said, "have access to this information, they are sure to tell Pop and Mom."

Mr. Reichler paid tribute to crusading newspapers whose good works have been recognized by Pulitzer awards, but he added, "May I respectfully suggest—without detracting one iota from the splendid public service represented in all of these—that these campaigns represent only a limited approach to the civic set-up, far less attention than our American municipalities deserve." In his opinion it is the day in and day out job of telling readers simply and clearly what is happening in the government and in political life that bears fruit.

Often described as "The editor who

Louisville Times Gathering Evidence Photographers Don't Upset Court Decorum

Last month R. L. McGrath reported progress in Seattle in efforts to liberalize rulings on photographic reporting of judicial proceedings, as urged in a resolution adopted at the 1946 convention. A second report now comes from Louisville; other members who have done anything to further this cause locally are invited to report their experiences to the membership.

By A. Y. ARONSON, Managing Editor
The Louisville Times

WE ARE NOT getting along very fast with our efforts to get some sort of understanding with our local judiciary on taking courtroom pictures.

Shortly after the April ASNE meeting and the adoption of the resolution, Barry Bingham wrote the president of the local Bar Association asking for a meeting at which we could demonstrate our quiet photographic equipment and discuss with them the ASNE resolution. The president in reply wrote he would be glad to cooperate with us but the chairman of the committee with whom he wanted us to meet was out of the city.

After a month passed we got in touch with this chairman and he promised to call a meeting. Sensing that he and the Bar Association wanted to dodge the issue we sent numerous requests asking that the time of a meeting be set. After they saw we were not going to drop the matter they went into a huddle and wrote

us that they thought the question should be put before our bench at an open meeting.

The first general session was held in October following a summer recess and the judges said they would not have time to take up any outside question at that meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled this month (December). In the meantime, we have sent our cameramen into two courts and they have taken pictures without the knowledge of the judge on the bench at the time. We hope to do the same in other courts.

The pictures are not for publication, but are intended for use to support our resolution that pictures can be taken in a courtroom without upsetting the decorum or dignity of the court.

These pictures we have taken are to be offered as such evidence at the general session if the judges don't think up a new excuse for not listening to us. We hope that in the other courts we will be as successful in snapping shots without discovery as we have been in the two courts which we have already been in.

ON HANDLING NEGRO NEWS

Lindsay Says Label Should be Used or Omitted
As Sense of a Particular Story Demands

By EDWARD LINDSAY, Editor
Decatur (Ill.) Herald and Review

H. B. SNYDER, of the Gary Post-Tribune, reported a policy in the handling of Negro news in the December Bulletin which I think bristles with weaknesses.



EDWARD LINDSAY

His recital of an incident in which The Post-Tribune told of the robbery and murder of a white man by two prostitutes in a story which did not indicate that the dicate that the gals were black leaves me filled with curiosity.

Was he a customer? Did he require two? Does the answer to either question point to the cause of his death?

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been making a campaign to get the word "Negro" out of derogatory news, and particularly out of headlines over crime stories. In the main, I am sympathetic with the Association's arguments because it is easy for newspapers to get into the habit of writing needlessly inflammatory stories where Negroes are involved. Omission of the word Negro, it seems to me, can be overdone if papers are to continue to be an accurate reflection of what goes on in the world.

I should think fairness would result if newspapers could get reporters, copyreaders and editors to ask themselves, whenever confronted with a story involving Negroes: It is necessary to the sense of this piece to say that Negroes are involved?

The prostitute story, which Mr. Snyder cites, is a pretty good example of one in which race designation probably would be regarded as important by most wholly objective news people.

On the positive side, when an honor is won by a Negro the fact of his race usually results in a bigger play. Negroes themselves would be disap-

pointed if it were not used.

After we dropped the designation Negro from a number of stories where we felt it added nothing, the local president of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a preacher, told me: "Some of our people don't know whether we like your new style or not. They don't know which funerals to go to."

Mr. Snyder's observation that race designation might be dropped from the social page sounds all right to me provided one condition is met.

When Negroes are invited to cocktail parties in the home of members of the Country Club, I would be willing to print an item about the return engagement sponsored by the Negroes.

There is no "social significance" in social page news. Its interest to readers hangs solely on what the Communists might regard as snobbishness—the social prominence of the individuals whose activities are described at the top of the column. The page is a parade of the Country Club set and the old families in town. If it isn't that, it isn't anything. It is true that most papers publish social notes about a good many more or less mine-run whites who can't quite impress the publishers of the social register. My guess is that these names do not kill the page, but that they don't help its readership either.

CLARIFICATION: Mr. Snyder said last month, "We are still segregated in one department—the so-called society page. I wonder if it shouldn't be abolished too?" The antecedent of "it" is "society page" and did not, as Mr. Lindsay thought, refer to segregation thereon but suggested abolition of that time-honored institution!

J. W. Lee Promoted

Joseph W. Lee, formerly chief editorial writer of The Topeka State Journal, has been advanced to editorial page director.

St. Paul Newspapers Use Race Identification Only When Essential

AN EDITORIAL handbook prepared and copyrighted by J. R. Wiggin, when he was editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, and still in use there takes up the question of racial designation.

"The race of a person arrested or convicted of crimes or involved in court or crime stories," the handbook instructs, "will be used ONLY if the crime is of such a major character that every available detail about the accused is a matter of news importance or if the race of persons involved is an ESSENTIAL ELEMENT of the news." (The caps are Mr. Wiggin's).

Two crime stories were cited in which the racial designation was deemed a necessary part of the story, one about a Negro named Frank Lewis accused of having given mixed parties and indicted on a charge of having carnal knowledge of a minor child.

"The use of the racial identification of Lewis in this manner," the handbook continues, "provoked the vigorous protests of the Urban league and of other groups in the community interested in the defense of Negro rights. A series of conferences with spokesmen for these groups was held over a period of weeks. It was acknowledged that the headlines on the stories were relatively conservative, the news treatment restrained, but it was not possible to persuade the Negro groups that the racial identification was in conformity with proper newspaper practice. Use of racial identification in such cases, nevertheless, remains the policy."

"Racial identification will not be made in minor crimes. In such offenses, sufficient news value does not attach to all the characteristics and background of the persons accused or convicted. The basic reason for not using racial descriptions is that repeated stories employing names of one or two races may be literally true but they convey collectively, over a period of time, an essentially false impression that the races most commonly referred to by name, in such cases, commit more crimes than other races, not so distinguishable or not so often identified."

IMPROVING PUBLIC RELATIONS

South Bend Tribune's Program is Aimed at Employees As Well as to Every Reader in Circulation Area

SOMETHING new in newspaper titles turned up in a letter from the South Bend Tribune, signed "Clarence W. Harding, Public Relations Director."

Queried, Mr. Harding admitted that the job and the title are relatively new; and added that the field is wide because "publishers are finding it necessary to do more public relations work, both with their readers and with their employees." Behind The Tribune's program are F. A. Miller, president and editor and a distinguished ASNE member, and Franklin D. Schurz, secretary and treasurer. The object, as they outline it, "is to make every reader of The Tribune, and every citizen of the area, think favorably of our newspaper."

Sometimes the methods used are direct, or again The Tribune may lend its weight without taking any credit.

Learning from a juvenile judge that teen-age boys' baseball leagues effectively combat juvenile delinquency (a problem to which Mr. Miller has given a great deal of intelligent attention) The Tribune offered every assistance to the Junior Association of Commerce, which sponsors the leagues. Taking no credit, the newspaper worked behind the scenes, publicizing a paper drive to provide funds, securing big league baseball players to conduct clinics for the teen-age players, and carrying adequate coverage of game results in the sports columns.

Many projects, of course, are directly sponsored by The Tribune, such as a grand opera, with net proceeds going to local charity, and a six weeks journalism course for students working on high school publications, with staff members as instructors. Commencing with city schools, the project will be extended this spring to include all high schools in the circulation area.

Convinced that a public relations program requires that you know how the people you are trying to influence feel about you, The Tribune has conducted two surveys during the past year—one on readership, another on public opinion. Both were revealing, showing up both weak and strong

points.

To improve employe relations, The Tribune is preparing a booklet about the paper's history, the reasons people give for liking the newspaper, and factual data including a building directory, officials' titles and general information about both the paper and its radio station. New employes each will receive a copy of the book and a short talk about the newspaper's policies. (This idea ties in with a discovery made by R. M. Hitt Jr. of the Charleston Post during Newspaper Week—that employes know all

Why Newspapers Are Discontinuing Use Of 'Ex-GI' Label, and How Practice Arose

RENEWING an appeal already made to editors to avoid use of the label "veteran" in crime stories, Major General G. B. Erskine, USMC, submits a resolution passed recently at a conference of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs. General Erskine, Administrator of the Retraining and Reemployment Administration of the Department of Labor, suggests that the resolution has merit and asks its consideration by members of the Society.

The request is modestly worded, says only that indiscriminate use of the word "veteran" in crime stories reflects unfairly on former servicemen and women, and asks that newspapers refrain from using it in crime stories where it has no relevancy.

Six months ahead of this appeal, E. M. Boyd, managing editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer, last summer asked his staff not to use "former serviceman" except where it has a bearing on a story. In an editorial The Enquirer announced its new policy to readers (one of whom, a teacher of a refresher course for former servicemen, had complained bitterly of the disservice done veterans in general) and explained why newspapers have drifted into the habit of putting apparent emphasis on the label.

"Newspaper technic," the editorial said, "requires the identification of persons involved in stories: Thus a man involved in an affray of some kind is identified as a banker, or teacher, or

too little about the paper on which they work, and are eager to know more.)

The same booklet will be given to visitors who tour the plant and, to make certain that they save it for future reference, it includes a glossary of newspaper terms.

Many other newspapers, of course, are doing similar good works, usually including them in the province of the promotion department. Establishment of a special department with a well-rounded program "to make every citizen of the area think favorably of his newspaper" may be the solution for editors who are more prone to deplore lack of good public relations than to do anything about the situation.

unemployed—the type of work he does or has done is part of the identification and therefore a proper part of the story." With the return of 8,000,000 young men to civilian life, the explanation continued, many who get into trouble have not yet reestablished their identification in civilian life. Consequently, "The reporter and editor who handle the story, therefore, certainly do not use the phrase (ex-GI) maliciously but of necessity."

"There have been many other instances in which the difficulty of social readjustment has played an important role in a story, and in such cases the phrase 'former serviceman' is an integral part of the story," the editorial continued.

But, it concluded, even without conscious effort, time will eradicate the practise: "As the men who become identified with various civilian activities, it no longer will be necessary, and certainly not proper, for editors and reporters to look back to a service connection for want of other identification."

THE St. Paul Dispatch and The Pioneer Press are among the newspapers which have dropped the word "veteran" in regard to former soldiers involved in crime stories.

"We do not identify a veteran as an 'ex-soldier,'" says V. E. Fairbanks, executive editor, "unless it is a vital part of the story."

Continuing Series On Newer Members, Meet F. W. Seymour

RESIGNATION of W. W. Waymack from the Des Moines Register and Tribune focussed interest on another, and newer, member of the Society—Forrest W. Seymour ("Wog" to his friends) who succeeded to the editorship.

Mr. Seymour, a brother of Gideon Seymour of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, was born at Arlington, S. Dak., July 10, 1905; their father was Arthur Hallock Seymour, later head of the department of history and political science of the state teachers' college at Aberdeen, S. Dak.

Graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, in 1928, Mr. Seymour had already begun his newspaper career five years earlier as a reporter for the Register and Tribune. He advanced steadily to copyreader, telegraph editor and other desk jobs in the city room, moved over to the editorial page, first as a writer then assistant editor, and in 1943 was made associate editor. When Mr. Waymack was appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission last year, Mr. Seymour was named editor of the editorial pages.

In 1942 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished editorial writing, and The Register and Tribune attained the distinction of having three Pulitzer prize winners, occupying adjoining offices on the 11th floor of the R&T building. Mr. Waymack had won the editorial writing award in 1937, and Jay N. Darling, the cartoonist, had been a two-time winner. In 1942 Mr. Seymour also received the American Legion's Stephen A. Chadwick Editorial Appreciation award.

In taking over responsibility for the Register and Tribune editorial pages, Mr. Seymour is carrying on in the liberal tradition established by Editor Emeritus Harvey A. Ingham (who at 88 still appears daily at his office) and advanced by Mr. Waymack during his years as editor.

Mr. Seymour's personal interests center around his family, his home and his garden. He is married and the father of four children. His professional interests are limitless, ranging from the purely local to the broadly international.



WALTER M. HARRISON, right, past president of ASNE elected to Distinguished Service membership, represents the older members of the Society but has never lost interest in the new. The picture was taken at the last convention, where he greeted Wesley S. Izzard, editor-in-chief, The Amarillo News-Globe.

★ ★ Notes on ASNE Members ★ ★

RECOVERED from an attack of pneumonia last fall, Wilbur Forrest is trying to take life a bit easier but the evidence shows little lessening in his ASNE activities.

Last month he represented the Society at a conference called by the Attorney General to make plans for a campaign to arouse public interest in basic liberties, and returned to the capital the same week for the Board meeting. He skipped the Gridiron dinner to go to Eastchester, N. Y., where he made the principal address at the Zenger shrine in St. Paul's church.

Gardener Cowles, publisher of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, and Fleur Fenton, New York advertising consultant, were married Dec. 27 in Stamford, Conn.

Most amusing Christmas card came from Michael A. Gorman, Flint Journal. The editor is pictured in "Man of Distinction" pose, wearing a battered hat and in his hand—a double dip ice cream cone.

Tom Wallace, editor of the Louis-

ville Times, was taken ill in Balboa, C.Z., early last month. Flown home, he was operated on in Norton Memorial Infirmary, Louisville, the day after Christmas. By New Year's doctors reported his condition good and expected to send him home in Mid-January.

Editorial Writers Get Facts In Person on Chronicle

PAUL C. SMITH, editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, long ago decided that the best way to arrive at sound opinions on complicated issues is to send an editorial writer to get the facts. More recently he has put such a plan into operation.

He has added three seasoned reporters to the editorial page staff whose job it is to dig down to the root of local stories, such as a reformatory scandal which recently hit Page One. Result: An editorial essay which, rather than merely commenting on the news, clarified the issues.

Research on the reformatory story shed light on faults in the state's entire correctional system and though it took time, it was time well spent.

N. M. Maddever Dies, One of Earliest Members of Society

DEATH took a heavier toll of ASNE members than usual last year. News, belatedly received, of the death on October 25 of N. F. Maddever of the Niagara Falls Gazette, brought the total to five.

Mr. Maddever, who was 71, had been managing editor of The Gazette for 40 years until ill health forced his retirement last summer. A native of London, Ont., he moved to Niagara Falls with his family when he was ten. After graduation from high school he entered the postal service but left in 1896 to join The Gazette staff as a cub reporter. Ten years later he was made managing editor. He has been an ASNE member for more than 20 years.

One of the city's best known and most influential citizens, Mr. Maddever devoted himself actively to civic affairs. A member of the Board of Education for more than 20 years, and its president most of that time, he played a leading part in the creation of the city's modern school system. Public housing was another of his interests; for several years he was a member of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority. A statement by Mayor Stephen A. Lamb testifies to the service he rendered as editor and citizen:

"As a newspaperman Mr. Maddever gave able leadership to the community and wise counsel to all who sought him out in his office. . . In civic life he gave generously of his energies and talent and was always available when calls for service were made. . . His human qualities were esteemed and his loyalty and sympathetic nature will long be remembered by all who knew him."

Mr. Maddever is survived by his widow; a son, John Franklin Maddever of Niagara Falls; and a daughter, Mrs. Edward E. Harrison of Stratford, Conn.

Thomas J. Berrigan has been appointed as managing editor to succeed Mr. Maddever. He is among the new members elected to the Society last month.

V. Y. Dallman Stresses Constructive News As New Year Begins

V. Y. DALLMAN'S columns in the Illinois State Register, Springfield, Ill., sounded off with "Good News" for 1947. He instructed his city and telegraph



desks to print only "Good News" on Page One of the last day's issues of 1946 to set an example for all other days of the New Year in terms of news treatment. Crime was forced into back pages in the "Good News" editions of December

31. Fires and other disasters lost first page positions. The art illustrated the good, the true and the beautiful.

The announcement read:

"The Illinois State Register will usher in the New Year with only GOOD NEWS to establish a deeper reportorial and reader interest in cultural and constructive activities.

"A spot GOOD NEWS box bearing upon cultural, moral and spiritual values will be given first page space every day of the New Year period. As these boxes will be drawn from world as well as local news, the cooperation of the Associated Press has been requested.

"Printing only GOOD NEWS in the issue of Dec. 31, 1946, this newspaper will feature Springfield's own Abraham Lincoln, the Lincoln tomb and its smiling, octogenarian custodian, Herbert Fay Wells, who has over a million Lincoln souvenirs and who makes over a thousand speeches annually on Lincoln to visitors at the shrine.

"Even John L. Lewis who is also Springfield's own, and who is spending the Christmas holidays with his mother, will be featured only in terms of 'a quiet neighbor over whom the greatest fuss is made in his old home town when his favorite barber kids him about trimming his famous, bushy eyebrows.'

"Also to be featured will be GOOD NEWS about a third genius who has

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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helped to make Springfield famous—the late Vachel Lindsay, poet, philosopher and author. A building program to include agitation for a new Memorial Civic Auditorium, a Civic Center, a new, two million dollar State Museum, and a Vachel Lindsay Memorial in terms of a literary center in the old Lindsay homestead, will be patterned after Lindsay's poem, "The Building of Springfield."

"It will be an 'L' of a day of GOOD NEWS:

"Lincoln
"Lewis
"Lindsay
"Loveliness!"

"May our readers express approval in letters to the editor which will make more GOOD NEWS? The homes, the churches, the schools and Civic Clubs can help!

"Are you interested?"
(Signed) V. Y. DALLMAN, Editor.

Print Shop Trouble

THE BULLETIN was late last month, due to unavoidable difficulties in the job shop where it is printed: hereafter it should reach members before the tenth of the month.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

February 1, 1947

No. 282

EDITORIAL WRITERS STEP OUT

Philadelphia Bulletin Staff Visits Institutions
And Factories to Learn Facts First Hand

• By MELVILLE F. FERGUSON, Editor
The Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia

IN THE January Bulletin it is noted that Paul C. Smith, editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, has put reporters on his editorial page staff to dig up unpublished facts as the basis for editorial comment.

This is an interesting move, as it suggests inadequacy in news reporting. But it seems more probable that the news pages simply omit, for space reasons, sidelights which have little value as news, but are important to arrival at correct editorial judgments.

We have long had a feeling here that in many cases more background is needed than the news columns can present, and we do our own digging without employing editorial staff reporters for the task. When the job is time-consuming, the city editor does it for us on request.

The purpose of this letter, however, is to point to another deficiency in editorial work which we have tried to remedy. The average editorial writer has a limited knowledge of his city and its activities unless he has served a long reportorial apprenticeship.

To remedy this, we of The Bulletin staff have been going places and seeing things. We have visited, in a group, all the principal state and government institutions located here; have inspected the city's way of doing things (water supply, garbage reduction, waste disposal, harbor patrol), and have observed the operation of industrial processes in the leading manufacturing plants in this area. So we know by visual education how people make locomotives, hats, airplanes, soup, storage batteries, street cars, paper towels, saws, railroad trains, sugar, etc.; also how the railroads, transit service, telephones and electric services are run.

It's been a liberal education, and



MELVILLE F. FERGUSON

we are keeping it up with weekly trips to and through places of interest, so that when any man handles an editorial bearing on local matters he'll know what he is talking about.

Some of our members may wonder how, if the editorial writers as a group desert their posts to participate in these expeditions, we get the work done. That's a professional secret that we will communicate to duly accredited responsible seekers after the low-down on request.

FOR CONVENTION information watch for the March issue of The Bulletin.

Alexander F. Jones, program chairman, promises a tentative outline of his plans for the three-day meeting, April 17, 18 and 19, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

Registration fee and sale of banquet tickets will be handled by the treasurer, B. M. McKelway, who also will announce his plans in that issue.

Bloc reservations will be made to accommodate members at The Statler or nearby hotels so that members who follow the instructions in the March Bulletin will be assured of rooms.

Chronicle's Editorial Page 'Leg-Man' Gets Background of News

PAUL SMITH'S plan for adding reporters to the editorial staff of the San Francisco Chronicle was mentioned briefly in the last Bulletin. Here's a fill-in on how it works.

When a state reformatory scandal hit page one, news columns of the Chronicle covered an investigation made by a Legislative committee; but Mr. Smith felt that the legislators were not digging to the roots of the problem, and he put an editorial reporter to work.

Unhampered by news deadlines, the editorial page leg-man was able to probe all possible sources of information. He talked to townspeople, some of whom had a commercial stake in the smuggling of liquor inside the school, to inmates and officials.

The facts gathered, the editorial reporter went into a three-way huddle with the editor page editor and Mr. Smith, editor of the paper, to decide which elements in the situation were most significant. The resulting editorial was an exposition of how the California correctional system works, and it also brought out facts indicating that the whole state institutional system needs attention.

Even though it lashes at their practices, penal authorities widely praised this editorial essay as "eminently fair" and "a valuable clarification of thinking on a vital matter."

That, Mr. Smith believes, is just what an editorial should be.

Style Books Differ Just As Greatly As Newspapers Do

SIGN of the times: Editors at long last are getting around to revising their style books.

This came to light when an ASNE member asked for samples from other offices from which he might glean ideas for revising his own book. Several newspapers have brought out new editions since the war; many more are in the making or in prospect.

Samples submitted reveal two schools of thought on what an editorial stylebook should be—a simple guide to a newspaper's individual style, or a course of instruction in grammar, spelling and semantics.

Smallest exhibit comes from the New York News, ten 3 x 5 inch pages. It lays down a few rules on punctuation, capitalization and abbreviation; warns against using stilted or archaic words and for the rest advises depending on good taste, common sense and Webster's Dictionary.

About the same size, but 30 pages, is the "Style Guide and Libel in a Nutshell" used by The Gannett Newspapers. Not intended as a manual, it seeks only to establish general principles. It avoids long arbitrary lists of words and expressions to be memorized and goes on the theory that "a complicated, involved style, with almost as many exceptions as rules, usually results in no style at all."

At the other extreme is the book of The New York Times, 100 pages in cloth binding, combining editorial and typographical styles. One rule included when the book was revised in 1943 calls for the use of the full name of an official (except pre-eminent public figures) the first time he is mentioned in a story. The book cites two reasons for meticulous recording of full names: "Many figures in the news will pass from the pages of newspapers in a few years, but the columns of The Times will be searched for accounts of events long after the principals of those events have gone from memory; and, this method has long been a sound journalistic practice."

While the New York Herald Tribune style book, unchanged since 1934, includes typographical styles, they are subordinated to the editorial section. Nearly 100 pages of the book are devoted to specific word styles from

"Aaron's-beard (plant)" to "Zecharian (prophet)." The alphabetical list is broken up with an occasional definition, "pleonasm: the using of more words than are required to give the sense intended," or a grammatical rule.

Most of the style books at hand, of course, are between the two extremes, the usual 20 to 30 standard pages with sections on grammar, punctuation, libel and sometimes include a bit of the editor's personal philosophy of newspapermaking.

Scripps-Howard Inquires: Can You Spell 'Accommodate'?

THE STYLE BOOK used by all Scripps-Howard Newspapers since 1934 keeps technicalities to a minimum, reads more like an editorial handbook. Excerpts:

"If you don't know how to spell a word, look it up in the dictionary, but if you, trained as a writer, don't know the meaning of a word without looking it up, don't use it."

"To the beginner: Become a sponge. Soak up all that you can absorb from the more experienced men who surround you. But don't try to be someone else. Be yourself. Let what you write reflect your own inner being, always remembering, of course, that your more seasoned city editor is the better judge of news values."

"To the oldster: What's that you say?"

"I don't need a style book. I know everything that's printed in this thing."

"Well that's just grand."

"But can you spell both accommodate and recommend?"

Standard-Times Offers A Code For News Writers

STYLES AND STANDARDS of the New Bedford Standard-Times is prefaced by "A Code" from which the following is taken:

"I will not take myself too seriously in the community, knowing that the accident which gives me my audience does not mean I have monopoly on ideas, ideas or truth. Therefore, I will seek for the truth in the ideas of others and the false in my own and where two sides may be fairly taken, I will not close my eyes to but one nor set myself up to judge, and in doubt I will give the public the facts in news and let conclusions be their own."

Don't Abolish U. S. Publicity; Edit It Better, Olds Suggests

GEORGE OLDS, managing editor of Springfield (Mo.) Newspaper, sounded off in Editor & Publisher fall on the volume of publicity, many of it disguised as news, that finds way into newspapers from various sources including the federal government. So, when Rep. John Taber recently announced that he was going to gunning for press agents on the federal payroll, we asked Mr. Olds what he thought of the congressman's plan.

Abolishing the clan, the Springfield member says, might be a good start for the taxpayers but it would be bad for the press associations and other news gatherers because, particularly in Washington, reporters must rely on hand-outs for a great deal of their news.

"Trouble is," he says, "they rely on them too much—accept them as full coverage when, in many instances, they should be used only as tips."

If Rep. Taber's idea fully prevailed, he points out, "even President Truman's Charlie Ross would be abolished—and no newsman would want that."

Admitting that the deluge of Washington handouts has lowered the quality of reporting in the capital, he suggests that "the remedy lies not in abolishing the 'information offices' but in better direction of reporters from their central offices."

"Personally," he concludes, "I feel that closing the National Press Club would do more to improve Washington reporting than any other action thus far suggested. Assuming, of course, that anyone concedes Washington reporting could be improved."

Remedy Still Good Now

PRESIDENT Walter M. Harrison in his opening address at the 1948 meeting:

"The flood of (commercial) publicity does not seem to have abated during the last year. I believe the cubic yardage has increased. . .

"The best medicine for the elimination of the press agent stuff in the news columns is an unrestricted and intelligent editor."

Forrest Names 16 Members To Juries for Pulitzer Awards

SIXTEEN ASNE members will meet in New York on March 10 and 11 to serve as the Editorial Jury for Pulitzer Prizes. Appointment of the jurors by the President of the Society from the membership is an innovation in the annual procedure. Also, Dean Carl W. Ackerman of the Graduate School of Journalism, advises, "We plan this year to submit all of the material to the ASNE juries without any previous weeding out by the faculty." Dean Ackerman has specially urged each jury member to submit nominations for prizes in order to provide a representative number of good nominations in each of eight categories.

President Forrest has named the following members to serve:

Public Service

A. H. KIRCHHOFFER, managing editor, Buffalo Evening News.
DONALD J. STERLING, managing editor, Oregon Journal, Portland.

Editorials

HENRY J. HASKELL, editor, Kansas City Star.
HAMILTON OWENS, editor, Baltimore Sun.

Correspondence

STEPHEN C. NOLAND, editor, The Indianapolis News.
MARVIN H. CREAGER, editorial advisor, The Milwaukee Journal.

Cartoons

WALKER STONE, editor, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.
BASIL L. WALTERS, executive editor, Knight Newspapers.

News Photography

N. R. HOWARD, editor, Cleveland News.
E. Z. DIMITMAN, executive editor, The Sun, Chicago.

National Telegraphic Reporting

DWIGHT S. PERRIN, managing editor, Philadelphia Bulletin.
LAURENCE L. WINSHIP, managing editor, The Globe, Boston.

International Telegraphic Reporting

ERWIN D. CANHAM, editor, Christian Science Monitor, Boston.
CARROLL W. BINDER, editorial editor, The Tribune, Minneapolis.

Reporting

GEORGE A. CORNISH, managing editor, New York Herald Tribune.
W. S. GILMORE, editor, The Detroit News.

"The ASNE Juries," Dean Ackerman explains, "will bear the same relationship to the Advisory Board as the Juries appointed by the President of the University for the Pulitzer Prizes in Letters. The Advisory Board always examined the reports of the Juries but reserves the right to accept or disagree inasmuch as the final responsibility for recommending prizes to the Trustees of the University rests with the members of the Advisory Board."

While a February 1 deadline was set because of the large volume of clerical work entailed, nominations for prizes will be admitted up to the time the juries meet. Any ASNE member wishing to make a recommendation should submit it promptly to one of the jurors in the proper category as listed above.

Accommodated at The Waldorf, the ASNE members will trek to Morning-side Heights for their work. "The Graduate School of Journalism," Dean Ackerman has written them, "will endeavor to be of all possible assistance in the hope that you may obtain some pleasure and satisfaction in performing this service which we hope and believe is good for the profession."

Creager Started Bulletin As Aid To ASNE Contacts

THIS YEAR of 1947 the ASNE Bulletin attains its majority.

At the 1926 convention Marvin H. Creager of The Milwaukee Journal, then secretary of the Society, reported on the first three issues. He said members had repeatedly expressed regret that their contacts with each other were limited to one meeting a year, and The Bulletin grew out of an attempt to satisfy this lack. "It is certain," he continued, "that The Bulletin will not be an effective publication, it will not satisfy the want felt by many members of the Society unless every member makes it a part of his responsibility to read it, to criticize it and contribute to it."

The same holds true today. Unfortunately, all editors are busy, many are overly modest and some, among the newer members, are not aware that no invitation to contribute to these columns is necessary. Actually, election to the Society automatically makes every member a contributing editor.

Stories about members are welcome; articles by them are particularly sought.

Fred C. Christopherson had the right idea when he submitted the picture of an airplane crash, in this issue, with the thought that "The Bulletin can serve a good purpose in sharing problems of this type among editors."

The Bulletin is always interested in stories of the kind, particularly when they are exclusive.

Two Resign From Society Due To Ineligibility

TWO RESIGNATIONS, both due to ineligibility, have been received by Secretary Dwight Young.

James A. Stuart, formerly editor of the Duluth Herald and News-Tribune, has retired from active newspaper work. "Pensioned but not disabled; and may emerge again," he says, and adds, "Caution: Don't get me mixed with James A. Stuart, managing editor of the Indianapolis Star."

Louis H. Brush submits his resignation because as chairman of the board of Brush-Moore Newspapers he no longer qualifies for membership.

Here, Mr. Program Chairman, is

WHAT ASNE MEMBERS ARE THINKING ABOUT

Gambling Odds

WHY DON'T you stir up some rumpus about newspapers printing gambling odds? Between radio sport announcers and newspaper sport writers I have been lulled into believing football and sundry sports are secondary to the gambling odds.

I might cite three brief case histories from the tremendous file:

The first is the Kentucky Derby. This seems more important than the Birth of Christ. Through progressive building-up thousands of persons believed Mrs. Elizabeth Arden Graham, who had three horses in it, would collect the Derby prize. Those thousands, how many I cannot say, were slightly dazed when a horse named Assault won.

No. 2. The Louis-Conn build-up to get the boys out of hock, a Mr. Mike Jacobs, a promoter, holding the bag. Some of the experts thought Mr. Conn would win. Those gambling odds again. Louis won, of course. There were other suckers besides those who made bets. You will find them on newspapers.

No. 3 and I'll quit. The UCLA-Illinois Bowl game. I was told early in December in Los Angeles that UCLA was headed for a fall. Illinois would win by two or more touchdowns. But the day of the game Illinois was the underdog. Betting odds: Six to five California would win.

W. C. STOUFFER, Managing Editor
Roanoke Times and World-News

Publicity Build-ups

EVER SINCE the Louis-Conn build-up, I've been peeved at the way reporters and editors are made suckers of by ballyhoo of one sort or another. It may be sports, it may be political, it may be anything. Too often, maybe, we are too inclined to take things at face value. Freedom of the press involves freedom to discriminate. That's especially true in politics when, because newspapers for the most part feel they must give every dog his day, we let a lot of yellow dogs into the

kennel.

I haven't thought this thing through, have no opinion as yet, but would like to hear some.

FRANK CLARVOE, Editor
The San Francisco News

Labor Philosophy

WHY shouldn't ASNE look into the labor question as it affects news and editorial operations at the same level of talent and energy now going into our global crusade for freedom of information?

Unions, notably the Guild, have detailed, comprehensive "bargaining programs." Managements, being notoriously individualist, have no common philosophy—or even a common fund of information.

Could the Society serve as an agency to crystallize executive thinking and policy on our own labor questions?

We have three tested methods: The Bulletin, a special committee, and the convention.

VINCENT S. JONES,
Executive Editor,
Utica Observer-Dispatch and Press.

World Press Freedom

WHAT IS the current status of ASNE recommendations to the United Nations on World Freedom of Press? What has been done? What prospects for some kind of action?

And let's have a brief discussion of freedom of press as a protection to the people rather than to media of communications.

ROBERT GLASS, Editor,
The News and Daily Advance,
Lynchburg, Virginia

Those Sunday Papers

IF I didn't take so much of my time hunting for the editorial pages in ponderous Sunday newspapers which neither index such pages nor tab their editorial section, I could find time to write an unexpurgated opinion of newspapers which neither index their editorial pages nor tab the

editorial section in their bulky Sunday issues.

But maybe The Bulletin would have to expurgate that opinion—and probably editors wouldn't like it even if it were just and justified. But maybe a test of their mental reflexes would be a help to their other readers too.

MAT GRAY, Associate Editor
New Orleans Times-Picayune

Better City Rooms

(The following was written when Mr. Bataille was editor of the Newark Sunday Call. He resigned from ASNE, due to ineligibility, when he became an editorial writer on the Newark Evening News after The Call ceased publication.)

WE SPEND a lot of time and thought on making our newspapers easier to read, but not much on making newspapers easier to make. Some editorial offices and newsrooms are superbly planned to save waste motion and increase efficiency. But many have just been thrown together without much thought to the work to be done. Publishers go for plush business offices, but the newsroom's a rat's nest.

How about stories from editors who have redesigned or rearranged their department layouts, or plan to. Maybe some of the members whose publishers have built or are planning soon to build new plants could give us some ideas.

EDWARD F. BATAILLE

—and Other Items

A MEMBER who modestly asked that his name not be used wrote: "Can newspapers do anything to overcome the evil of war talk with good talk?"

And an editor who didn't sign his name made a one-word suggestion: "Integrity."

Other topics mentioned: The government and the GI training bill; photographers; improving make-up; different features and editorial treatment or "all day newspapers" where evening and morning newspapers in a city are under the same ownership management.

Editor Undecided, Readers Approve Of Graphic Photo

THE EDITOR had grave doubts about printing a gruesome picture of an airplane crash, put the question up to his readers and discovered to his surprise that the majority approved its publication. And still Fred C. Christopherson, editor of the Daily Argus-Leader, Sioux Falls, S.D., is wondering what other editors would have done. Here's his story: A private airplane crashed in flames near Sioux Falls on January 9, and both of the passengers were burned to death. Herb Qualset, staff photographer, was on the scene a few minutes afterwards and took several pictures. Most of them were routine crash shots but one was really graphic.

Our first decision, quickly made, was to eliminate this picture and to use two others. This we did. But the elimination of the extraordinary picture bothered us quite a bit so we posted it in our front window along side the news bulletins just to ascertain public reaction. All who passed by stopped and stared at it in amazement. This made us wonder whether or not our decision had been correct. The outcome was that we decided to print the picture the following day, on the inside, with an explanatory note on Page 1.

Readers promptly took pen in hand to tell Mr. Christopherson that they approved printing the picture.

Said one: "I would have hated to miss it in the paper."

And another: "We have eyes to see with. The more we see, the broader and more tolerant we become. That is nature's way. Why kid ourselves and others? That disputed picture did not just tumble into the press room and shout, 'Publish me.' No, folks, things (in 1947) don't happen that easy portal-to-portal way."

A reader with better than average understanding of the definition of

Dakota Member Asks:

WOULD YOU RUN THIS PICTURE?



Disputed picture which was withheld at time of the accident, but later published. Below, the page one box which appeared in the same issue of the paper.

news said: "Newspapers play up an airplane accident these days because they are rare as compared to traffic accidents. Public interest. . . Accidents don't happen, there is a reason and the reason could be removed. Let

us have more actual pictures of accidents."

Oddly, enough, Mr. Christopherson reports, all the letters received were favorable. However, he adds,

"In conversation over the coffee cups and around town, though, I received a mixed reaction with perhaps about 75% in favor of publication, the rest against it. One airplane salesman said the didn't like it for an obvious reason. But—and this is an interesting point to an editor—no one said the picture bored him and all said they had studied it."

Outside Jobs Permitted?

ARE YOUR staff members permitted to take on publicity jobs or other outside work? If not, why not; and if so, why do you consider this practise permissible? Opinions and experiences wanted for the March Bulletin.

Appearing on page 7 today is a picture that was withheld from publication Thursday because it seemed to be too graphic.

But the picture was placed in our window along side the regular news bulletin board and attracted so much attention that we changed our mind.

So today the picture—a view of the airplane wreck near Baltic Thursday—is being published.

Examine it, and then tell us what you would have done if the decision had been yours to make.

Meet T. J. Berrigan, New ASNE Member From Niagara Falls

THOMAS J. BERRIGAN, new managing editor of the Niagara Falls Gazette, has received all his newspaper experience on that paper. Born October 11, 1904, of pioneer Irish-Canadian stock at Allumette Island, Quebec, he graduated from the University of Toronto in 1926 and the following year started at The Gazette as a cub reporter.

During the next 19 years he covered all The Gazette beats, filled desk and rewrite assignments and wrote policy articles and editorials. When the city editor became ill in the fall of 1945, Mr. Berrigan, as the veteran of the city room, took his desk in an acting capacity. Shortly afterwards, N. F. Maddever, managing editor, also became seriously ill and for several months all the burdens of the editorial department fell on the shoulders of the erstwhile reporter.

Mr. Berrigan moved up to the managing editor's office when Mr. Maddever retired last spring. In the fall he died and Mr. Berrigan was elected to succeed him in ASNE.

The new managing editor is a member of the Kiwanis Club and Chamber of Commerce and has been active in Community Chest, Boy Scout and Red Cross work. He spends his spare time fishing and hunting and also enjoys sports contests (as a spectator) and detective stories. He and Mrs. Berrigan have three sons, Paul, 15; Patrick, 13; and Thomas Jr., 11. While it's too early to know whether any of them will follow in father's footsteps, Mr. Berrigan has no objections to their planning newspaper careers if they feel inclined that way.

What, No Strike? No Measles?

NEXT new member slated for a thumbnail sketch is Hodding Carter, editor of the Delta Democrat-Times, Greenville, Miss. He pleaded off this month: "I'm behind on a deadline for a novel; my secretary has the flu; I'm busy raising funds for the church; I have to make five talks on what my wife accurately describes as the 'chicken salad circuit'; we're breaking in two new staffers; and our building is being remodeled about our ears."

In Memoriam OGDEN REID—January 3, 1947

(An editorial from The Washington Post)

THE BEST EPITAPH to Ogden Reid, editor of the New York Herald Tribune and president of the Herald Tribune Corporation, is that he cherished and perpetuated the great tradition of his inheritance. It was a tradition that all the makers of The Tribune (which was blended with the New York Herald in 1924) were partners in a common enterprise. Still members of The Herald who went over to the combined paper felt the change at once. Frank A. Munsey had made The Herald a soulless property where men got little joy out of their work. In The Tribune office there was a Bohemian, even convivial warmth, a sense of belonging . . .

Such a spirit has, as Dr. Johnson said of friendship, to be kept in constant repair. Down the years the paper has thriven mightily. To be sure, it has shed the personalism of its editorship, but it has put on a size and acquired a strength that Uncle Horace could only dream of. And bigness is a sterner foe of institutional intimacy than personality at the top. However, under Ogden Reid, The Herald Tribune had no ivory towers and permitted no gulfs in its "shop." He managed to expand, even deepen, the sense of community among the staff as his newspaper developed. He was reserved to an extreme, yet everybody knew him as a colleague, many as a friend, both on and off the premises. The fact is that his growing up had taken place in most of the journal's departments and his life belonged to the newspaper. . . .

A Republican in politics, he was nevertheless independent in his outlook and liberal in his leanings, so that The Herald Tribune under his leadership never became a slave to partisanship. Its independence evolved into a force of great pulling power in the late thirties when the war clouds appeared over Europe. Mr. Reid, who liked to travel and observe for himself, saw the world as one and indivisible. The Herald Tribune, in editorials written with style and without fear, was in the van in making the American people aware of this indubitable fact. But its primary service in those controversial days went to the Republican party in helping the GOP out of its storm cellar. Now the paper, as distinguished an organ of public opinion as there is, is in the lead in the task of persuading America to live up to the responsibilities of peacemaking. Ogden Reid died at the peak of the paper's usefulness, at a time when it was going from strength to strength. . . . All The Herald Tribune fellowship is bereaved by his death.

Even The Experts Can't Explain 'Bulldog Edition'

ERWIN D. CANHAM, Christian Science Monitor, is still trying to answer the reader who asked him the derivation of the term "bulldog edition."

A box in the last Bulletin brought no results. Letters to various members elicited just one reply, from James Kerney, Jr., Trenton Times Newspapers, who said "I don't know anything about the derivation of the term 'bulldog edition' except that they are tough to get rid of once they have their teeth in you."

Seeking the information from outside sources, The Bulletin wrote to find out whether the SNPA library might supply the answer. Walter C. Johnson, secretary-manager, remembers the term being used as far back

as Spanish-American war days but says, "I don't think we took any pains to find out why it was so named."

Still pursuing the question, we've asked Haskin, Frank ("Take my Word for It") Colby, and even radio's "Answer Man," all to no avail.

Must be someone who has run across that information somewhere, but if so where?

Membership Applications

BETWEEN now and the annual meeting, the Board of Directors ballots by mail on election of new members. Anyone wishing to propose a candidate should write the membership chairman for blanks so that, eligible, he can be elected in time to attend the convention. Address: Wright Bryan, editor, Atlanta Journal, Atlanta, Georgia.

M. H. Williams Family is Represented On Three of New England's Major Newspapers



PROUD FATHER is M. H. Williams, Worcester Telegram and Gazette, with son Robert, of the Providence Journal-Bulletin, and daughter Elinor, of the Boston Herald-Traveler.

IT IS NOT uncommon to encounter an ASNE member who has a son or a daughter in the newspaper business, but at least one member has both a son and a daughter doing editorial work. Three of the four members of his family are "newspaper," and all on different papers.

He is M. H. Williams, executive editor of the Worcester Telegram and The Evening Gazette. The family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, their daughter Elinor and their son Robert. Miss Elinor is fashion and beauty editor of the Boston Herald-Traveler and Robert is on the state staff of the Providence Journal-Bulletin. Just what the fourth member, the mother of the family, thinks about all this would make another story of some length.

Mr. Williams is a veteran of 37 years in the business, all of it in the news department, starting with an orthodox hitch as cub reporter. The last 33 years have been in executive positions including city editor and managing editor of the Boston Traveler; managing editor of the Albany Evening News, the first year of its publication; managing editor of both the Worcester Telegram and The Gazette, and about two years in his present position.

He has served on the executive committee of the AP Managing Editors Association, and as chairman

of the New England Regional AP group; is a member of the Advisory Committee of the American Press Institute, and was a discussion leader at the Institute's seminars for managing editors and city editors.

Daughter Elinor, in addition to daily features on fashions and beauty, writes a three-times-a-week "Tips for Teens" column for The Herald. A selection of releases of this column was recently published by The Herald in book form and, through a New York syndicate, the column is currently used by more than 50 papers in this country and Canada. She is a graduate of Bates College, where she was woman's editor of the college weekly.

Son Robert has been a reporter for The Journal-Bulletin since April, 1946, when he was released from active duty by the Navy. Soon after his graduation from Dartmouth College he was called to active duty and was commissioned upon completion of a course of study in a Naval Reserve Midshipman's School. He was on active duty four years, three of them on a destroyer in the Pacific, and held the rank of Lieutenant when he was released.

R. M. Hitt, Jr., managing editor of the Charleston Post has been named assistant director of the Charleston Challenges Bureau, a new civic promotion organization.

Personals

THE first of the year was moving up day for several members.

Clayton Fritchey, executive editor of the New Orleans Item, was made editor of the paper.

Ward E. Duffy, managing-editor of the Hartford Times, was named to the newly-created post of associate editor. Mr. Duffy takes over his new duties on his return from the South where he has been recuperating from a long siege in the hospital.

Tom Hanes, formerly managing editor of the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, has been made production manager of that newspaper and The Virginian-Pilot.

Elmer Cunningham, managing editor of the Wilmington Journal Every-Evening, and Frieda B. Wright, Home Service Director of the Delaware Red Cross, were married Jan. 11, in First Presbyterian Central Church, Wilmington.

George S. Crandall, executive editor of the Elmira Star-Gazette, and Mrs. Crandall observed their 40th wedding anniversary recently. Both were employed on the Elmira Star when they were married, Mr. Crandall as a reporter and his wife in the business office.

Francis B. Locke, editorial page editor of the Miami Daily News, on leave for a year as a Nieman fellow, is busy cramming for mid-years. Asked how it feels to be a student again, he says he's so out of practise that writing even a couple of hundred words for The Bulletin seems like a major opus, requiring all sorts of time, peace and quietude.

George W. Healy, Jr., managing editor of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, is the new president of Sigma Delta Chi.

Oxie Reichler, editor of the Yonkers-Herald Statesman, spoke on newspaper influence (rising) on a CBS program with Morrie Ernest who spoke on newspaper influence (waning.)

Wilbur Forrest made only one address last month, at the South Carolina Press Association meeting.

Newspaper Rejects Old Concepts In New 'Design For Living' Page

IN MONTREAL last month, Erwin D. Canham of The Christian Science Monitor met a psychologist, recently turned newspaperman, who is wrestling with a problem of concern to editors in this country: The newspaper's obligation to help people live more happily with each other and with themselves in this modern world.

The Canadian is Dr. Douglas J. Wilson who, with two associates, is responsible for a new "Design for Living" page in The Montreal Daily Star.

That newspaper long has been exercised over its obligation to the reading public in the spheres of education, mental health and religion. The department was inaugurated several weeks ago in an endeavor to translate thought into action. In planning the weekly page, Dr. Wilson says, the editors sought to keep in mind good journalistic practice and "the obvious need for guidance in such fields as personal adjustment, both domestic and vocational; the need for reaffirmation of such spiritual truths as receive the approbation of most serious and responsible citizens."

Religion offers the most difficult field, Dr. Wilson says, a statement in which editors in this country will concur although he adds that local complications of race and doctrine do not simplify matters in Montreal.

"The policy adopted, so far with success," he continues, "is to stress only those great principles of religion which seem common to the needs of all normal people. The necessity of a dominant faith, a theistic, rather than a purely mechanical outlook, the resources of spiritual disciplines—these and many others strike a responsive need in many of all persuasions and perhaps of no persuasion. Here the plan is to steer a mid-course between neurotic fadism and flabby platitudes. A 1947 vocabulary is vital in this field. Old terms are too mildewed with obscurantism to be useful; when the Devil changes the contents of a bottle, he does not always change the label!"

About half of the weekly page is devoted to religion, in the larger sense. There are news stories and features on

health, medicine, psychology, books, anything that fits into a design for better living. Much of the material is local to Montreal or of special significance to Canadians.

Dr. Wilson was associate professor of psychology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont., from 1932 to 1946. Not an ASNE member, he told Mr. Canham he is eager to get in touch with members of the Society who might be interested in discussing ways in which newspapers can approach this major challenge. Mr. Canham believes that Dr. Wilson has an idea which will interest a good many editors who would like to do something along the same line if they could devise and carry out a satisfactory formula.

Day's Best 'Flash of Good News' Is A Page One Must

VINCENT Y. DALLMAN, editor of the Illinois State Register, won much favorable comment on his "Good News" edition on December 31, in which culture pushed crime off page one. Also inevitably, a couple of criticisms. They concerned his reference to John L. Lewis as "a quiet neighbor."

"I expected that," Mr. Dallman says, "but I considered it good news to say a kind word for Lewis in the midst of the Christmas season in view of the fact that he comes to Springfield only to visit his mother and makes no fuss about it."

Carrying out his New Year's pledge, Mr. Dallman now gives a front page spot daily to a news brief, local or from the wire services, hearing upon cultural, moral or spiritual values. It appears under a standing head "Today's Flash of Good News" and will continue there every day of 1947. Sample flash: "Rent-free Home for Baltimore Quadruplets."

Corrections Wanted

BADGES for the convention will go into production next month. Any inaccuracies in the membership list, as it appears in The Proceedings, should be reported to the Secretary as the badges are lettered from that list.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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WILBUR FORREST *New York Herald Tribune*

1st VICE PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD *Cleveland Post*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN D. CANHAM *Christian Science Monitor*

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The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

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Maria Moors Cabot Award For 1946 Won By Lee Hills

FOR THE second successive year an ASNE member won the international Maria Moors Cabot award when the 1946 medal went to Lee Hills, managing editor of The Miami Herald. Tom Wallace, editor of The Louisville Times, was the recipient in 1945.

Mr. Hills received the medal and The Herald a plaque in recognition of distinguished journalistic service performed by a comprehensive program of news coverage and journalistic leadership in the field of better relations and closer understanding between the Americas.

Keystone of that program is the Clipper Edition of The Herald developed under Mr. Hills' direction which is delivered by air to Central and South America. Other phases include a daily roundup of Latin American news; maintenance of roving staff members in Latin-American countries who cover spot news and develop background and feature articles; and coverage of the large Latin colony in Miami.

Mr. Hills has been managing editor of The Herald since 1942.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS
March 1, 1947

No. 283

PLANS FOR APRIL CONVENTION PROGRESSING

Jones Lines Up Speakers And Topics for Meeting In Washington's Statler

ALEXANDER F. JONES, program chairman and a seasoned hand at the job, is making no brash statements this far in advance of the convention, April 17, 18 and 19 in Hotel Statler, Washington.

"The program is shaping up nicely," he says convincingly, but discreetly. "Some topics and speakers can be announced now, others hinge on news developments in the next month."

Secretary of State George C. Marshall has promised to address one meeting. His schedule calls for his presence in Washington at that time which assures his attendance at the convention barring unforeseen events. A conference with President Truman is being arranged. Also planned is a talk by Warren R. Austin, delegate to the UN Security Council, on international aspects of atomic energy.

Last year's session with Congressional leaders was so highly applauded that it will be repeated at the coming meeting. Two subjects already have been selected, labor and taxation, and the others will be of equal importance.

Washington coverage, the editorial page and journalistic ethics will have space on the program. Ethics will be discussed by Arthur Hays Sulzberger, publisher of the New York Times. Virginius Dabney, editor of the Richmond Times Dispatch, will conduct a round table on the editorial page in which selected members of the Society will participate. Mr. Dabney has had the outline of his program ready for some months and began the final work on it on his return from abroad last month. A panel of correspondents will discuss problems of Washington coverage, what they think of the handling of capital news in their papers, editors and publishers in general, and their own in particular.



ALEXANDER F. JONES

Panel discussions by members will round out the program. Mr. Jones has received many valuable suggestions as to subjects from his committee, but would be glad to consider others from the membership at large. He is purposely leaving open places on the program for vital issues which may develop in the next few weeks.

The convention will open Thursday, April 17, at 10 A.M., with an address by President Forrest, and conclude with the banquet Saturday.

Room Reservations Should Be Made Promptly

THE HOTEL STATLER, has set aside a bloc of rooms sufficient to accommodate most members attending. When those reservations have been exhausted, members will be assigned to nearby hotels.

If you have not yet made a reservation, don't delay. Write for a room TODAY. Address your letter to J. W. Fauquier, assistant sales manager, Hotel Statler, Washington 5, D. C. Be sure to state you are attending the

Forms for Registering And Purchasing Tickets To Be Mailed to Members

TO SIMPLIFY registration and ordering of banquet tickets, Treasurer B. M. McKelway is instituting a new system.

Within the week he will mail each member a form to be filled in and returned with a check to cover registration fee, luncheon each of three days and banquet tickets. Amount to be paid if you are attending the convention will be indicated on the form, and space will be provided to enter the names of your guests and to indicate if you wish to be seated with some other party at the banquet.

Your order will be acknowledged but no credentials will be sent to you; identification badges and tickets will be waiting for you at the registration desk. This insures forgetful members against leaving them at home.

Convention expenses, like everything else, have risen; but the price you will pay for tickets represents cost to the Society, no plus.

Tables at the banquet will seat 12. You may have a full table if you wish but please don't order any more tickets than you actually need as the size of the banquet is rapidly approaching the capacity of the room. Small parties will be combined to round out incomplete tables.

meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and write it out please. Another ASNE (American Society of Naval Engineers) is meeting there at the same time.

Rooms in Washington are still at a premium. Please double up with a friend if possible, or indicate if you are willing to share a twin-bedded room with another member who will be assigned to you.

Lower Air Mail Rates For Papers Can Spread Information Overseas

PRESIDENT Wilbur Forrest talked recently with representatives of the Post Office Department about a project now under way for distributing American newspapers and news magazines overseas by airmail. The plan impressed Mr. Forrest as a feasible way, if censorship is not involved, of helping to spread much-needed information and he asked for background for the benefit of interested members. This is supplied in a letter from Gael Sullivan, Second Assistant Postmaster General, who says:

"Last summer the Postmaster General and I traveled around the world studying postal conditions in various countries. We were most forcibly struck by the absence of any news issuing from the United States. On our return the Postmaster General reported his observations in this regard to President Truman, who directed him to take all action within his power to rectify these conditions.

"After considerable study of ways and means of getting to foreign countries the viewpoint of citizens of this country as expressed in our publications, a program was worked out for that purpose."

Practically all nations of the world, Mr. Sullivan continues, are parties to international postal conventions which have as their main purpose facilitating the interchange of information between citizens of different nations through the mails. News being a perishable commodity, it is highly desirable if not essential that publications be conveyed by air, but, he points out, "air express rates have been substantially lower than international postal rates; as a result publishers have shipped by air express in preference to using the mails. Consequently, the advantages provided by the international postal conventions have not been realized."

In the past the difference in cost has been unavoidable but a petition already has been filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board seeking to eliminate the discrepancy in rates for the transport of news publications. The Department is eager to work out the details with airlines and newspapers with all possible speed. Certain data

concerning anticipated volume, and its various designations has been gathered, but more is needed.

Any questions concerning the project should be addressed to the Second Assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Sullivan will be glad to answer them in detail.

Finnegan Asks Help In Drawing Resolution

FROM THE MINUTES of the Board meeting last December:

"RESOLVED that the Board ask the Resolutions Committee to make a careful study of the relation of the government's licensing powers (including those relating to radio and the second class mailing privilege) to freedom of speech and the press. The study thus made should be reported to the full membership of the Society at its annual meeting in April."

Richard J. Finnegan, publisher of The Times, Chicago, chairman of that committee, is seeking guidance in making the study authorized by the Board. He would like members to send him any documents, information, viewpoints or suggestions for source material which might prove helpful. These should be sent to Mr. Finnegan without delay.

The committee also would welcome suggestions for resolutions on other subjects which members feel should be brought before the convention in April. These may be submitted to the chairman or any member of his committee, which follows:

JOSEPHUS DANIELS, editor, Raleigh News and Observer.

TOM WALLACE, editor, Louisville Times.

WILLIAM HENRY GRIMES, editor, Wall Street Journal.

RALPH COGHLAN, editor of editorial page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

BLANCHE HIXSON SMITH, associate editor, Meriden (Conn.) Record.

HAMILTON OWENS, editor, Baltimore Sun.

W. S. GILMORE, editor, Detroit News.

ERWIN D. CANHAM, editor, Christian Science Monitor.

PAUL C. SMITH, editor, San Francisco Chronicle.

ROY A. ROBERTS, president and general manager, Kansas City Star.

MAIL BALLOTS on candidates for election will be taken by the Board of Directors this month and next. Anyone wishing to propose a new member should write the Membership Chairman, Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, for application blanks.

Candidates for Directors To Be Announced Next Month

DWIGHT PERRIN, managing editor of The Evening Bulletin, last spring blithely accepted the post of Nominations Chairman and, as time for getting to work on the '47 candidates approached, suddenly found himself with another newspaper on his hands. In spite of the extra work entailed by The Bulletin's purchase of the Philadelphia Record, he has gone manfully ahead with the ASNE job he undertook.

His committee has been canvassed for suggestions, and canvassed for a vote on the names submitted. At this time he has sent out a final ballot; the eight names ranking highest on it will be submitted to the membership at the convention, for the election of four directors for three year terms and a fifth to fill the unexpired term of Wilbur Forrest. On retiring from the presidency, Mr. Forrest automatically becomes an ex-officio member of the Board.

Names of successful candidates for nomination will be announced in the April Bulletin.

Convention Schedule

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Meeting opens at 10 A.M., continues through luncheon and afternoon sessions. Reconvenes at 8 P.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Morning, luncheon and afternoon sessions; no evening meeting.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Morning session, luncheon meeting and possibly continuing through afternoon. Banquet in evening.

Although there will be no meeting on Wednesday, April 16, the registration desk will be open in the afternoon for the convenience of members arriving in Washington early.

Editor Says Few Small City Papers Are Worth The Ink To Print Them

• By JOSEPH AGOR, Editor
Shamokin (Pa.) News-Dispatch

THERE SEEMS to be an understanding, although I cling to the belief it is a misunderstanding, that small city newspapers need not be well written and carefully edited, and that news rooms of the smaller dailies cannot be organized and operated in a businesslike manner. A publisher who once hired me to write editorials and back up the line for the editor told me shortly after I started on the job to "stop being so damn particular; this isn't a metropolitan paper."

Every effort I made to improve the paper's tone met with hostility. Every innovation... and God knows, many I sought to introduce were years overdue... came up against the refrain: "You can't do that on a small paper." Everyone in the organization echoed the publisher's sentiment. Everywhere I turned I met with laziness, ignorance and fear.

This attitude on the part of small city newspaper publishers, editors and others in authority gives me a pain in the neck. Papers with this outlook invite the amused tolerance with which they are invariably viewed by intelligent home town readers. They never become a force in the community they are supposed to serve, although they do provide a medium through which local merchants present their wares to the public. As shoppers' guides they excel, some of them. Their editorial departments are merely auxiliaries of the business offices.

Over a long period I have examined small city papers in various sections of the country and many come to our exchange desk every day. In the majority of them the heads are sloppy, few contain well-written local stories, while page make-ups have all the appearance of having been conceived in the minds of children too young to put jigsaw puzzles together, but who just place piece against piece, without rhyme or reason, until all the pieces or all the available space is used up. Of course there are exceptions to gladden the eye and the heart.

Sweat in large portions must go into the making of a good readable news-

paper, no matter what its size or circulation. Small cities need and want good dailies. However, when an editor thinks that to demand first class reporting, writing and makeup is silly because the paper is "small town" and when the publisher thinks his sloppy, poorly planned sheet will "pass" with the readers because he has no competition, that sheet isn't worth the ink that befouls its white paper.

Too many small city publishers and editors appear to believe their sphere of activity lies in the field of picayune matters. Reporters are poorly trained, many of them lacking even a fundamental knowledge of the newsman's craft. Dependence for the day's principal stories is placed entirely on the wire service. Of course the reader wants to know something about state, national and international affairs, but he wants to know also about his local taxes, the management of his schools, about housing, industry and a multitude of other matters which touch him every day. He wants to be kept informed constantly, not just when council or the school board meets to pass a lot of cut and dried formal reports which do not disclose the real state of affairs.

On many of the small city dailies with which I am familiar I have found a decided lack of sustained effort, that day-after-day drive for better and still better presentation of the news. Enthusiastic spurts, resulting from occasional prodding, die out in a few days or weeks and the quality and quantity of local coverage subside to the old rutted level. All too frequently the editors who direct the staff of this type of paper are themselves lacking either in skill or enthusiasm, or both. A news staff, no matter how gifted its individual members, will be as good only as its directing head. The boss has got to be enthusiastic and imaginative. He's got to be able to smell a story a mile away, then see that the proper man covers it. He must have the ability to make constructive suggestions on story angles and to infect his men with his own enthusiasm.

Given moderately intelligent personnel and with a decent plant behind him, the small city editor can and



JOSEPH AGOR

should produce a good paper, consistent in style, accurate and interesting in content. Top ranking small city dailies are not accidents. They result from intelligent planning and persistent effort.

And Here Is the Man Who Makes the Charges

LAST YEAR'S SERIES on the journalistic philosophies of members in small cities is continued on this page by Joseph Agor, an editor whose chief peeve is that he can find time for only sporadic outside writing.

Besides editing the Shamokin News-Dispatch (circ. 12,000) he recently wrote a series of blood-chilling murder yarns in "Newspaperman," based on Coal Region crimes he covered years ago as a police reporter. His by-line has appeared in many magazines, including the old American Mercury.

For two years Mr. Agor wrote a column on miners and labor generally in the Philadelphia Record. In 1937 Governor George Earle appointed him to a commission for socio-economic study of Pennsylvania's anthracite mining industry.

During the war he directed his home county's five rationing boards; he is active in PNPA, and a member of its editorial affairs committee; still finds time for hobbies—mechanical tinkering, reading, golf; admits a lust for travel sternly repressed but likely to burst out at any moment.

ASNE FOUNDED IN 1922 WITH 62 CHARTER MEMBERS



GROVE PATTERSON
Toledo Blade
President, 1934-35



MARVIN H. CREAGER
Milwaukee Journal
President, 1936



DONALD J. STERLING
Oregon Journal
President, 1939

Casper S. Yost Conceived Idea For Society, Served Three Years As Its First President

WITH the 25th anniversary of the Society approaching, it seems fitting to give thought to the charter members of ASNE, who they were and where they are now.

Founder of ASNE was the late Casper S. Yost, editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and president of the Society from 1922 to 1925. At its first meeting, April 26, 1922, the Board of Directors voted that any eligible editor who, through his correspondence prior to the organization meeting, had expressed a desire to participate in the organization of the Society be accepted as a charter member. This brought the original membership to 62. Nine of these still are members. On the list that follows, the names of the newspapers on which they were employed when they became members appears in parentheses, if they have changed their connections since that time.

Charter members no longer on the rolls also are listed.

Copies of the original list of charter members sent to various members for checking brought forth many items of interest about the founders.

David Smiley, once editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger and now

publisher of the Tampa Times, is the father of Member Joseph Smiley, editor of that paper.

Member Lloyd M. Felmly, editor of the Newark Evening News, reports that John P. Coakley, formerly of the Newark Star-Eagle and more recently financial editor of The News, is very ill at his home in East Orange.

Also on sick leave is Richard Cull, Sr., formerly editor of the Dayton News and now news editor of Station WHIO in Dayton.

Member Edwin B. Wilson occasionally sees Arthur M. Howe, former editor of the Brooklyn Eagle, and finds him in good health, retired but still interested in civic affairs in which he has always taken an active part.

James M. Thomson, who sold the New Orleans Item to Member Ralph Nicholson, maintains residence in New Orleans but he and Mrs. Thomson, a daughter of Champ Clark, spend a good deal of time in Virginia and Washington.

Georg H. Hough, Sr., once editor of the New Bedford Standard and

now retired to his beloved Martha's Vineyard, was the subject last year of an extraordinarily fine painting by Thomas Hart Benton. Jessie Benton, age 7, viewed the painting in some puzzlement and asked, "Why do you want to paint Old Man Hough?"

The name most frequently checked was Alexander Moore, publisher of the Pittsburgh Leader who later was appointed Ambassador to Spain by President Harding. Letters referring to him invariably said, "You remember—he married Lillian Russell."

Still On Rolls

FRANK S. BAKER, editor, Tacoma News-Tribune (Tacoma Ledger).

MARVIN H. CREAGER, editorial advisor, The Milwaukee Journal.

JAMES L. MCGOVERN, associate editor, Bridgeport Post-Telegram (Bridgeport Times).

JAMES M. NORTH, Jr., editor, Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

GROVE PATTERSON, editor-in-chief, Toledo Blade (Detroit Journal).

PAUL PATTERSON, general manager, Baltimore Sun.

M. S. SHERMAN, editor, The Hartford Courant (Springfield Union).

DONALD J. STERLING, managing editor, Oregon Journal, Portland.

J. VANCE, editor, New Britain Herald.

NINE REMAIN IN SOCIETY ON ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY



JOHNSTONE VANCE



PAUL PATTERSON



FRANK S. BAKER



JAMES N. NORTH, JR.



M. S. SHERMAN



JAMES L. MCGOVERN

No Longer Members

WILLIAM L. CHENERY, publisher, Collier's (New York Globe).

JOHN P. COAKLEY, financial editor, Newark Evening News (Newark Star Eagle).

RICHARD CULL, news editor, Station WHIO, Dayton, (Dayton News).

WILLIAM A. CURLEY, editor-in-chief, New York Journal and American (Chicago American).

WILLIAM N. HARDY, manager, Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association, Harrisburg (Boston Telegram).

GEORGE A. HOUGH, retired, Martha's Vineyard (New Bedford Standard).

ARTHUR M. HOWE, retired, Brooklyn, (Brooklyn Eagle).

RICHARD G. KNOTT, Goldman Sachs and Company, New York (Louisville Herald-Post).

ARTHUR B. KROCK, Chief of Washington Bureau, New York Times (Louisville Times).

JULIAN S. MASON, living on Long Island (New York Tribune).

C. M. MORRISON, secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Public Ledger).

HARVEY E. NEWBRANCH, editor-in-chief, Omaha World-Herald.

CHARLES McD. PUCKETTE, general manager, The Chattanooga Times (New York Post).

LORING PICKERING, retired, Woodside, Cal., (San Francisco Bulletin).

DAVID E. SMILEY, president and

publisher, Tampa Times (Philadelphia Public Ledger).

CHARLES S. STANTON, retired, San Francisco (San Francisco Examiner).

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE, chairman of the board, Overseas News Agency, New York City, (New York World).

JAMES M. THOMSON, retired, New Orleans (New Orleans Item).

Deceased

WILLIS J. ABBOT, Christian Science Monitor.

ROLAND F. ANDREW, Worcester Telegram and Evening Gazette.

GEORGE BAILEY, Houston Post.

EDWARD S. BECK, Chicago Tribune.

ROBERT W. BINGHAM, Louisville Courier-Journal.

EDMUND BOOTH, Grand Rapids Press.

ERNEST BROSS, Indianapolis Star.

MAJOR JOHN S. COHEN, Atlanta Journal.

FRANK I. COBB, New York World.

HARRIS M. CRIST, Brooklyn Eagle.

ALBERT W. CUMMINS, Wilmington (Del.) News.

C. W. DANZIGER, Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

ED FLICKER, Bridgeport Telegram.

H. R. GALT, St. Paul Dispatch.

JOSEPH GARRETSON, Cincinnati Times-Star.

JAMES W. GREENE, Buffalo Express.

ERIE C. HOPWOOD, Cleveland Plain Dealer (ASNE president, 1926-1927).

LEWIS C. HUMPHREY, Louisville Evening Post.

GEORGE E. MILLER, Detroit News.

C. P. J. MOONEY, Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

ALEXANDER P. MOORE, Pittsburgh Leader.

J. EDWIN MURPHY, Baltimore Sun.

T. E. NILES, New York Evening Mail.

JOSEPH M. PATTERSON, Chicago Tribune.

EDGAR B. PIPER, Portland Oregonian.

GEORGE T. RICHARDSON, Worcester Post.

DAVID S. TAYLOR, Buffalo Courier.

CARR V. VAN ANDA, New York Times.

JAMES T. WILLIAMS Jr., Boston Transcript.

LOUIS J. WORTHAM, Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG, Des Moines Capital.

CASPER S. YOST, St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Founder of ASNE and president 1922-25).

Information Lacking

MERTON E. BURKE, New York Daily News.

EDWARD A. DICKSON, Los Angeles Express.

JOHN J. SPURGEON, Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Toledo Blade Pioneered In Dropping Race Tag; Finds It Sound Policy

• By MICHAEL BRADSHAW, Editor
Toledo Blade

HERE on The Blade we have been interested in the running discussion in The Bulletin about the handling of Negro news because apparently we did some pioneering in that direction.



MICHAEL BRADSHAW

Five or six years ago we dropped the Negro label in our news columns, primarily to eliminate a tag offensive to our Negro readers and partly because we felt that the use of the tag served no other purpose. Since we didn't differentiate between nationalities, we saw no reason for drawing a line between races.

At first the new policy adopted without public explanation caused some confusion. As was the experience with the Gary Post-Tribune, described by H. B. Snyder (Dec. 1946 Bulletin), some white persons objected to the new practice. So did some Negroes. But very quickly everyone got used to it, and we had forgotten ourselves that the custom was unusual until we saw the articles in the Bulletin.

Of course, Edward Lindsay, editor of the Decatur (Ill.) Herald and Review, is right in saying that this policy must be applied with the same discretion used with any other (Jan. 1947). Back in the fall of 1945 an able Negro citizen was running for the Toledo City Council under our non-partisan, proportional representation system. During the campaign The Blade didn't identify him by his race and thus may have aided him in his campaign. But when he was elected the first Negro member of City Council, we reversed the policy over some opposition within the staff because our Negro readers, some of them, would have resented the omission of the race designation on such an occasion.

Such inconsistencies, we feel, do not detract from the soundness of the

overall policy. We believe our readers like it and we certainly do ourselves. Whether it has been of much value in improving racial relations in Toledo, we don't know; but more than any other single thing, perhaps, it has shown that The Blade is trying to do so.

Orchids to Mr. Puckette; He Didn't Quote Mark Twain

TRACKING DOWN the present status of charter members presented more of a problem than the editor of The Bulletin anticipated. Several editors were reported both dead and alive—from equally authoritative sources. Among them was Charles McD. Puckette, formerly New York Post, now general manager of the Chattanooga Times.

"Maybe I'm dead," Mr. Puckette wrote, "but the folks who are paying me a salary don't know it."

Besides current members of the Society who reported on charter members from their own cities, The Bulletin is indebted for information to Mr. Puckette; Oliver J. Keller, formerly editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and now owner of Radio Station WTAX, Springfield, Ill.; William N. Hardy, a charter member now manager of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association; and Walter C. Johnson, secretary-manager of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

Newbranch of Omaha Is Ranking Bridge Player

OUTSTANDING among charter members is Harvey Elsworth Newbranch, editor-in-chief of The World-Herald, Omaha.

A Pulitzer prize-winner, Mr. Newbranch's writing ability has not diminished with the years, and some of his colleagues are convinced that he has done his best writing in the past two years. Now 72, he takes two vacations a year instead of one but that is his only concession to time.

For many years he alone got out The World-Herald editorial page, wrote two full columns of 18 em editorials seven days a week, handled the "Public Pulse" letters and a "Gleaned from Many Fields" column.

Reading, travel and cards are his hobbies and he is ranked as the top bridge player in Omaha and vicinity.

Charles Corbin, New Minneapolis Member, Long With The Blade

CHARLES R. CORBIN, assistant executive editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, had his journalistic



CHARLES CORBIN

school training under the "Heck" Harnett at Ohio State University, 1913-1914, then went to work as a reporter for the Zanesville Ohio Signal. After a hitch in the Officers Training School at Camp Gordon, Ga., during the first world war he had a

chance to learn newspapering under Grove Patterson and seized it.

State editor of The Blade in 1938, he became successively managing editor, news editor, assistant managing editor, and managing editor from 1929 to 1942. As a side job he taught news writing at the University of Toledo from 1923 to 1929, conducted a seminar there for the next 13 years. Of that experience he says:

"My first class consisted of some inquisitive young hellions whose attitude when I answered their never-ending questions was 'Oh yeah! Prove it!' They wanted particularly to know WHY certain kinds of news stories are interesting. I had to do a lot of digging to satisfy their curiosity and the resulting material eventually found its way into a book titled, 'Why News Is News,' published by Ronald Press (N.Y.) in 1928."

In 1942-43, Mr. Corbin spent 14 months in Washington "eluding the vengeful Pennsylvania Avenue pigeons and testing the palatability of the National Press Club's famous dry Martinis when I wasn't putting in an honest day's work for Nat Howard and Byron Price in the press division of the Office of Censorship."

Mr. Corbin's hobby is photography, mostly scenic, and in winter he takes pictures of the Minnesota snow instead of shoveling it as more zealous householders do. He is married and has one daughter who was graduated from Stephens College and is now a junior at the University of Missouri.

NEWSMEN AND OUTSIDE JOBS

Fatigue and Preoccupation Seen as Twin Dangers When Employee Works Outside Office Hours

• By WM. P. STEVEN, Managing Editor
The Morning Tribune, Minneapolis

OUTSIDE work is covered in our contract with the Twin City Newspaper Guild, and the clause reads as follows:

"Employees of the publishers shall be free to engage in any activities or expressions of opinion outside working hours, provided they do not consist of services performed in competition with the publisher and provided an employee does not

make manifest his connection with the publisher unless approved by the publisher or its agent. Any matter for publication produced by an employee in his private capacity shall be submitted, before publication in any newspaper of the publisher, to the managing editor of that newspaper. Employees will tell the publisher, at its request, what services they are performing for compensation outside working hours."

That is the rule and there are very few cases available to give any further interpretation of it. It does mean that some of our men are employed on projects of their own choosing outside of office hours. In only a few instances has this employment produced difficulties. One man undertook a teaching job in the school of journalism at the University and found it too time-consuming. He discontinued after a semester on his own volition. Other men have done the same thing and not had the same experience. One man undertook a publicity job for a neighbor who was a candidate for office but I think he would agree now that handling the telephone calls did result in some impairment of his work.

Only one man has proved to be troublesome from a standpoint of trying to sneak by publicity for his accounts and he was so troublesome on so many other accounts that he was dismissed without this specific issue coming into play.

With these minor exceptions I think the greatest danger in part-time outside employment is that the employee's thoughts are directed in other channels, where he might be more valuable if he were more concerned about his one major source of income. In other words, I think that fatigue and preoccupation are dangers of at least equal intensity with a man who attempts any volume of outside employment.

Dallas News Permits Only School Teaching

• By HARRY C. WITHERS, Managing Editor
The Dallas Morning News

FOR THE LAST ten or fifteen years The Dallas News has permitted members of its staff to teach in schools of the community. Other outside employment is not permitted.

Usually permission is confined to those the management regards as capable of representing the paper creditably and the subjects are restricted to those related to newspaper production.

For example, members of our staff have taught classes in advertising, newspaper art, feature writing, editing and reporting at Southern Methodist University and in the public evening schools.

I think the practice may be defended on the theory that the newspaper is contributing to culture in the community, thereby building good will for itself.

Likewise it behooves newspapers to take an intelligent self-interest in how and what pupils in journalism classes are being taught since that is rapidly becoming their major source of manpower.

I believe it would be unwise for newspapers to permit full time members of their staffs to accept part-time jobs indiscriminately as in some cases there would be an inevitable division of loyalty to the ultimate detriment of the newspaper. Even when permission is given it should be made clear that the newspaper reserves the right to withdraw the permission when and if it finds the arrangement detracts from the employee's service and value to the paper.

Publicity and Press Agent Work Banned; Writing Encouraged

• By FREDERICK WARE, Managing Editor
The World-Herald, Omaha

WE HAVE NO rule against staff members doing other work. We will not, however, approve work which conflicts in any way with services to this newspaper and we will not permit anyone on The World-Herald pay roll to have a financial interest in any other local business.



FREDERICK WARE

We like to have our staff members do outside writing. We do not permit them to engage in such likely conflicting enterprises as press agent work and publicity work. I have long held that these activities have very little in common with journalism and a great deal in absolute opposition to the best journalistic practices, and I therefore lament the appearance on the curriculum of colleges of journalism courses in public relations and publicity work.

We hope that our experienced writers and editors are sufficiently well paid so that they are not under any economic pressure to seek additional income.

We have no particular defense of our pleasure in seeing our staff members sell their work on the outside. In fact, I don't believe there is any need for a defense. To the contrary, successful writing for magazines should be an occasion for pride.

I digressed slightly in the foregoing and began a dissertation on the evils of press agency. But I caught myself in time. It is a subject on which I feel deeply and on which I doubtless harbor very unreasonable prejudices, but to date no one has been able to convince me that I am wrong. I can't resist adding this observation: In brief, the press agent is the natural enemy of newspapermen. Of course, as it is with all such statements, there are exceptions; but these are relatively unimportant.

In Memoriam

Charles P. Manship
January 27, 1947

CHARLES P. MANSHIP, publisher of the Baton Rouge State Times and Morning Advocate, died in his home in Baton Rouge, January 27. He had never fully recovered his health after an illness he suffered when he was in London, in 1944, as associate director of the U. S. Office of Censorship.

A native of Mississippi, born in McComb, Nov. 28, 1881, Mr. Manship began his newspaper career as a college correspondent, writing for the Jackson Daily News when he was a student in Millsaps College. He went to Baton Rouge in 1895 as correspondent for the New Orleans Picayune, then reporting for the Baton Rouge Times and The State. By 1917 he was editor and publisher of the merged State-Times and seven years later he established the Morning Advocate.

A member of ASNE for several years, Mr. Manship was more active in the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, of which he served as president more than two years.

During the war he was extremely active, as a member of the Newspaper Industry Advisory Committee of WPB, on the advisory Council of OFF, and later of Censorship.

Mr. Manship is survived by his widow and two sons, Charles P. and Douglas Lewis.

Publicity Jobs Tempt Reporters in Miami

HOKE WELCH managing editor of the Miami Daily News, was among those queried about outside jobs. He reports:

"Publicity jobs are a dime a dozen here, especially during the winter season, and hardly a day passes but what some member of the staff receives a tempting offer to handle an account during off hours.

"We have a policy permitting outside work only when it does not interfere with regular hours and, most important, when it is not based on the employee's ability to get something published in the paper. In other words, the employee's outside work, if any, can have no connection whatsoever with the paper."

Kenneth C. Hogate
February 11, 1947

KENNETH C. HOGATE, chairman of the board of Dow-Jones & Co., died in Palm Springs, Calif., on February 11. Only 49, he had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage ten days before his death.

Born in Danville, Ind., July 27, 1897, Mr. Hogate attended school there and later was graduated from De Pauw University. There he edited the college daily and in his last year he was offered a job with The Cleveland News Leader, later working for The Detroit News as a copy reader.

A fortuitous meeting with the late Clarence W. Barron led Mr. Hogate into finance. In 1921 he was named chief of The Wall Street Journal's newly-opened Detroit bureau. The following year he moved to New York and in 1922 was made managing editor of The Journal, later vice president and general manager.

As a leading financial publisher, Mr. Hogate was a liaison man between the Stock Exchange and the public, and frequently was referred to as "a financial ambassador of good will." In 1937 he was named a member of a Committee for the Study of the Organization and Administration of the New York Stock Exchange, and was instrumental in drafting a report which recommended reforms which the Stock Exchange itself ought to make to meet the Securities and Exchange Commission part way.

In spite of his specialized work, Mr. Hogate never lost interest in the ASNE, which he joined as managing editor of The Wall Street Journal.

He is survived by his widow, his mother, and three daughters.

Patterson on Long Tour

GROVE PATTERSON, editor of The Toledo Blade, has returned from a trip down the West Coast from Washington to Southern California, on to Mexico, Yucatan and Guatemala and on his return route he stopped over in Texas and Missouri. In the first two weeks he was away he wrote 18 columns, made 11 speeches, was interviewed twice on the radio and four times for newspapers.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 283 March 1, 1947

ASNE Members Take Lead in Other Organizations

ASNE MEMBERS are in the forefront in all editorial affairs these days.

Harold W. Sanford, editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, is legislative chairman of the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors and appointed the following to his committee:

George Cornish, New York Herald Tribune; James R. Doran, Schenectady Union Star; Vincent S. Jones, Utica Observer Dispatch and Press; A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News; Dwight Marvin, Troy Record; Wallace Odell, Westchester County Newspapers; James P. Rosemond, Syracuse Herald-Journal and Fred Stein, Binghamton Press.

President of the New York Society this year is L. R. Blanchard, Ganett Newspapers.

And did you notice that officers of the AP Managing Editors Association elected in Los Angeles also are all ASNE members? They were A. Y. Aronson, Louisville Times, chairman; Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Herbert Corn, Washington Star, secretary-treasurer; and Lee Hills, Miami Herald, assistant secretary-treasurer.

THE BULLETIN

No. 284

CONVENTION DAYS PACKED WITH EDITORIAL DISCUSSION

Jones Completes Program For Anniversary Meeting Of Society in Washington

NEWSPAPER TOPICS predominate on the program for the annual meeting of the Society, April 17, 18 and 19 in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. For every speaker on a subject closely aligned with journalism, there is an ASNE member discussing immediate problems of every editor. Thus the program chairman, Alexander F. Jones of The Washington Post, fulfills his pre-convention promise.

At the opening session, President Wilbur Forrest will present his views on the practical steps needed to implement world freedom of information. The convention also will end on a global note. The banquet speakers will be David Lillienthal, whose confirmation as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission seems certain as this is written, and Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution. While Dr. Bush is best known for his incalculable scientific contribution to the war, at the banquet he will turn his attention from the past to the future.

At the White House President Truman has promised plain talk, on questions of vital and immediate concern (Members only).

The domestic and international scene will be rounded out by the Secretary of State, General George C. Marshall; the Chief of Staff, General Dwight D. Eisenhower; and ex-Senator Warren R. Austin in his triple role in the United Nations. Speakers at the Congressional session are still to be announced.

Only other non-newspaper speaker on the program is Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University, who will talk on newspapers' share and stake in education.

For other speakers Mr. Jones has drawn on the membership: Three

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

- 10:00 A.M.—Address by President Wilbur Forrest. Reports of officers and committees; presentation of resolutions by Richard J. Finnegan, Chicago Times. Twenty-fifth anniversary observance: Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade; Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal; Marvin H. Creager, Milwaukee Journal.
- 12:30 P.M.—Report on Germany and Japan: Manchester Boddy, Los Angeles Daily News and Carroll W. Binder, Minneapolis Tribune.
- 2:30 P.M.—Ethics of Journalism: Arthur Hays Sulzberger, New York Times.
- 4:00 P.M.—Conference with President Truman, at the White House.
- 8:00 P.M.—Session with Congressional leaders.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

- 10:00 A.M.—Editorial page panel: Virginius Dabney, Richmond Times-Dispatch, chairman; J. D. Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal, Harry Ashmore, Charlotte News, and Ralph Nicholson, New Orleans Item.
- 12:30 P.M.—Secretary of State George C. Marshall.
- 2:30 P.M.—Newspapers and Education: Dr. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

- 10:00 A.M.—Three newspaper talks, followed by discussion: Vincent S. Jones, Utica Observer-Dispatch and Press, on editorial application of The Continuing Study; Nelson Poynter, St. Petersburg Times; and Milton Murray, president, American Newspaper Guild.
- 12:30 P.M.—Former Senator Warren R. Austin, of the UN Security Council.
- 2:30 P.M.—General Dwight S. Eisenhower.
- 3:30 P.M.—Discussion and Adoption of resolutions.
- 6:30 P.M.—Cocktail party for members and their guests.
- 7:00 P.M.—Banquet theme, This Changing World: David Lillienthal and Dr. Vannevar Bush.

(Registration desk open April 16, 1 to 5 P. M. and daily thereafter.)

past presidents, Grove Patterson, Donald J. Sterling and Marvin H. Creager on the beginnings of ASNE; Arthur H. Sulzberger on ethics; Manchester Boddy and Carroll W. Binder, recently returned from Germany and Japan respectively; Vincent S. Jones on the use he has made of The Continuing Study. Various aspects of labor relations will be covered by a member, Nelson Poynter, and a non-member, Milton Murray. Virginius

Dabney is presenting only three speakers on the editorial page, J. D. Ferguson, Harry Ashmore and Ralph Nicholson, to allow time for discussion from the floor.

All meetings will be open unless otherwise announced at the convention. The program is subject to change but none is expected. Polls for election of directors (page 3) will open and close when President Forrest designates.

Requests For Banquet Reservations Taxing Ballroom Capacity

AS BANQUET reservations are fast approaching the capacity of the ballroom, additional orders for tickets cannot be accepted from members who already have made reservations. Remaining space must be saved for those who have not yet registered. Please do not order more tickets than you need.

Repeating the information contained in a direct-mail memo sent to members by B. M. McKelway, treasurer:

Convention registration fee is \$15. This is paid only by members attending the convention.

While the price sounds inflationary, it isn't, as the fee this year includes your luncheon tickets. The new plan means that you can pick up your tickets with your badges, instead of waiting in line to buy them each day, as in 1946.

Checks for registration fee, \$15, plus \$7.50 each banquet ticket should be mailed to Mr. McKelway at The Washington Star, Washington 4, D. C. Banquet seats are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. If convenient please list names of guests.

Parties wishing to sit together at the banquet should so inform Mr. McKelway when making their advance payments. Insofar as this is possible, the seating committee will honor all such requests.

Made Your Reservation At Statler? If Not—

IF YOU HAVEN'T made your hotel reservation, don't delay. Write J. W. Fauquier, assistant sales manager, Hotel Statler, Washington 5, D.C., stating that you are attending the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. And if you're traveling alone, please indicate if you are willing to share a twin-bedded room with another ASNE member.

If the demand for rooms should exceed the number reserved at The Statler, the Greater National Capital Committee has promised to find accommodations at first-class hotels nearby. The situation is still tight; the sooner The Statler and the GNCC know how many rooms are needed, the better they can accommodate everyone.

Convention 2. & A.

THE FOLLOWING questions have been asked by new members who have not yet attended an ASNE convention.

Are wives welcome—or do they only clutter up the place? Is any entertainment provided for them?

The banquet Saturday night is a mixed affair. Ladies also are invited to attend sessions, other than two or possibly three off-the-record meetings. No special entertainment for them; but they seem to get acquainted and have a good time.

Do most editors pay their own convention expenses?

No. Majority of publishers feel their editors profit from the convention; and most members travel on expense accounts.

If my publisher comes along, can he attend meetings?

Yes, all open sessions. As your guest, he needs no credentials.

I still can't buy a dress shirt. Can I wear a business suit to the banquet?

Yes. Black tie is the rule, but there are always exceptions—individualists who won't dress, and members who lose their luggage.

On arrival at the Statler, just what do I do?

Check in at the registration desk to pick up badge and tickets. ASNE takes over the entire mezzanine, with headquarters in one of the parlors on that floor.

If one of my banquet guests drops out, can I get a refund? And, from another member: If I find at the last minute that I need an extra ticket, can I buy it?

Cancellations may be made to the treasurer, B. M. McKelway, Washington Star, up to the day of the convention. After that it depends entirely on whether some other member wants a spare ticket.

At the moment it looks as if extra tickets would not be available, but there's always a chance of picking up a cancellation at the registration desk—though not at your original table as the seating chart will have been made up.

Are my personal banquet guests invited to the cocktail party?

Yes indeed. The Society is host to members and their guests at the reception immediately preceding the banquet.

Five New Candidates, Three Incumbents Nominated for Board

EIGHT CANDIDATES for Board of Directors have been named by the Nominations Committee. At the convention, the membership will vote for four directors for the three-year terms; the candidate running fifth on the ballots will fill the expired term (two years) of W. H. Forrest who, as retiring president, comes an ex-officio member of the Board until 1950.

Directors whose regular terms expire this year are N. R. Howard, Cleveland News; Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post; David Lawrence, United States News; and Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers. Mr. Walters declined renomination. Roy A. Roberts, who this year concludes his ex-officio term as past-president, asked not to be named for one of the four regular vacancies. Thus the nominations submitted by the committee include three incumbents and five new candidates.

Dwight Perrin of the Philadelphia Bulletin, chairman, consulted the committee members for suggestions and then selected the candidates by poll. Each of those named received a majority vote. In addition to Mr. Perrin, the nominations committee was comprised of Edward T. Leach, Pittsburgh Press; W. R. Walters, South Bend Tribune; Lloyd M. Feltz, Newark Evening News; J. K. Walsh, Kalamazoo Gazette; Palmer Hoyt, Denver Post; Manchester Boddy, Los Angeles Daily News; Stanley Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Barry Bingham, Louisville Courier-Journal; Ralph Nicholson, New Orleans Item.

Following the election, the new Board of Directors will elect 1947-48 officers of the society from among its members.

SDX Banquet, April 16th

SIGMA DELTA CHI will hold its Founder's Day Dinner on April 16, and any editors who are SDX members who will be at the ASNE convention will be welcome to attend. If they want a place reserved for them they should communicate with Dick Fitzpatrick, 1300 National Press Bldg., Washington 4, D. C.

LUTHER HUSTON, National Vice President, Washington (D. C.) Chapter.

YOU WILL VOTE FOR FOUR AT THE APRIL CONVENTION



ALEXANDER JONES

ALEXANDER F. JONES (Incumbent) joined the Society when he became managing editor of The Washington Post and at once took an active part in its affairs. This year concludes his first term on the Board. A member of the Washington Committee, he served as program chairman in 1944. When President Forrest asked him to take on that onerous task again, he took a deep breath—and accepted for 1947.

OVETA CULP HOBBY, wartime head of the WAC, is executive vice president of the Houston Post. She is the first woman ever nominated for director. Parliamentarian of the Texas legislature for six years, Mrs. Hobby serves in a similar capacity at ASNE meetings. She was a member of the Committee to Study World Dissemination of News, and also is on the Program Committee for the April convention.



OVETA C. HOBBY

RALPH COGHAN, editor of the editorial page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, first raised his voice in ASNE affairs at the 1942 convention when he presented a much-disputed resolution on government advertising in newspapers. He was appointed to the Resolutions Committee the following year, has been instrumental in framing resolutions since, and is serving again as a member of the 1947 Committee.



RALPH COGHAN

L. D. HOTCHKISS, a ten year member of the Society, joined as managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, has been editor of that newspaper since 1945. Attending ASNE meetings regularly, each year he has taken a more active part in its affairs, at the annual meetings and on various committees. A member of the Program Committee in 1944, this year he is on the Bulletin Advisory Board.



L. D. HOTCHKISS



DAVID LAWRENCE

N. R. HOWARD (Incumbent), editor of the Cleveland News, is first vice president of the Society. Elected a director in 1939, he resigned from the Board and the secretaryship when he went to the Office of Censorship; returning to The News, he was elected a director again in 1944. For three years he has handled ASNE public relations, and last year headed the Committee to Study World Dissemination of News.



N. R. HOWARD

DAVID LAWRENCE (Incumbent), editor of The United States News, joined the Society as a daily newspaper editor; when the News became a weekly, he was elected to membership under the Distinguished Service clause of the by-laws. A director since 1930, he has served indefatigably on the Washington committee and convention committee. In 1944 he was made treasurer, serving in that capacity until last year.

JOHN L. MORRISON sprang into ASNE fame with a speech on "Newspaper Irks" at the 1936 convention and was promptly elected to membership. Editor and publisher of the Greenville (Pa.) Record-Argus, he also is known for his humorous writings, particularly on "iron dogs and cigar store Indians," of which he has made a study. He is the only candidate named from cities in the under-50,000 population class.



JOHN L. MORRISON

J. DONALD FERGUSON is among the newer members of the Society, elected in 1944 soon after he became eligible as president and editor of The Milwaukee Journal. Chairman of last year's Editorial Page Committee, he was to have led a discussion at the 1946 convention, graciously withdrew his panel to make way for the Russian guests. This year he is again a member of the Editorial Committee.



J. D. FERGUSON

Carolina Libel Rulings Complicate Problem of Race Label in News

• By S. L. LATIMER, Jr., Editor and Publisher
The State, Columbia, S. C.

SINCE the handling of Negro news has been discussed in The Bulletin, perhaps members of the Society would like to hear from the South on this subject.

In South Carolina, where our newspaper is published, almost one half of the population (42 per cent) is Negro.

The question arises with us, as elsewhere, as to whether as a matter of policy a colored person should be designated as such, but our problem is complicated because in our state it is libel per se to call a white person a Negro. Therefore if we are to affix the race, we must be careful, not only for accuracy's sake but also because an error could be costly. The result is that while we have no rule against designation it often is omitted for safety. If the occasion warrants it, and the race of persons involved is essential to the meaning, we check until we are certain. We never call a person a Negro on hearsay or on casual information. If there is doubt, the race is not specified.

How It Came About

One reason for using the race in a Southern locality is that many Negroes and whites have the same names, an inheritance from the days of slavery. In many cases not to designate would be a disservice to both races.

Perhaps the members of the Society would like to know how calling a white man a Negro came to be libel per se. Perhaps, too, they would be interested to know that in the latest decision, handed down 42 years ago, both federal and New York state courts were quoted in the majority opinion.

In 1903 a white man was injured by a street car in Charleston, S. C. He brought action against the operating company and in reporting the complaint both Charleston newspapers described the plaintiff as colored, whereupon they, too, were sued, the crux of the allegations being that calling him a Negro tended "to exclude him from society, and by reason of said false and defamatory publication this plaintiff has been injured in his reputation and hurt in his feelings."

When the libel cause came before

the lower court in 1904, the judge sustained a demurrer in which the defendants contended that under Amendments XIII, XIV and XV to the Constitution of the United States and the statutes of the State of South Carolina "the use of the word 'colored' in application to anyone is not libelous nor defamatory, nor can any legal cause of action arise from such application."

Supreme Court Quoted

The plaintiff appealed to the state supreme court which in 1905 reversed the lower and sent the suit back for hearing, holding that adoption of the amendments had not changed previous rulings that to call a white person a Negro was libel per se. These amendments, the court stated, do not affect the social relation "of the white and Negro races, but it is the same" as before their adoption. Cited were a South Carolina decision of 1791, which declared that "calling a white man a Negro or mulatto, which is the same in this country, is actionable," and a South Carolina opinion, 1818, that calling a white man's wife a mulatto, when she wasn't was actionable per se.

Quoted was a United States Supreme Court decision that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments "were designed to accord the members of the Negro race the same protection in life, liberty and property which was already enjoyed by the white man." Nowhere in the opinion, the South Carolina court commented, did "the court (United States Supreme) in that case refer to the social relations of each race." Another United States Supreme Court case and a New York Court of Appeal decision were held in support of the theory that social equality cannot be legislated.

No Sizable Actions

I can report that not for many years has there been a sizable action against a South Carolina newspaper for a race error. I know, however, of a few settlements for small amounts. Perhaps if the question were tested today the decision would

be different. I don't know. But as long as the law is what it is, it is a possible source of suits, which enters definitely into how to handle Negro news.

As to segregation of Negro news, we have not found it advisable. In the first place, we see no reason for it. In the second place, we do not believe members of the Negro race desire it. And in the third place if in the make-up an item about a white person should get in the Negro section it might run afoul of the prevailing law.

One more thing: For many years we have capitalized the 'N' in Negro and 'nigger' and any other offensive terms are forbidden.

Members of Society Crop Up Frequently In 'Post Biographies'

TWO ASNE members—John Knight and Eugene Meyer—are the subjects of profiles in "More Post Biographies" compiled by John B. Drewry (University of Georgia Press, \$3.50). Also included are the stories of the Christian Science Monitor and the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, and a wealth of information about outstanding newspaper writers. Reprinted from the Saturday Evening Post, the collection is a sequel to "Post Biographies of Famous Journalists," also edited by Dean Drewry of Henry W. Grady School of Journalism.

In a preface, Dean Drewry recalls that the late Fred Fuller Shedd, editor-in-chief of the Evening Bulletin and president of ASNE, 1930-32, was largely responsible for the closer alliance now prevailing between editors and journalism teachers. Following a meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism at which Mr. Shedd spoke, he initiated the National Joint Committee which has since become the American Council on Education for Journalism. The Society is one of five newspaper organizations represented in ACEJ and contributes to the accreditation plan now being worked out under its sponsorship.

There are frequent references throughout the book to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which Dean Drewry describes as "the best-organized and most influential editorial group in this country—or any other country for that matter."

Topeka Capital Again Enforcing Ban On Outside Jobs

• BY MILTON TABOR
Managing Editor
The Topeka Daily Capital

THE CAPITAL has a rule that no reporter is allowed to take outside jobs. But, like most rules, we have not enforced it too strictly in recent years.



MILTON TABOR

We do have two or three special writers on space rates who are permitted to handle whatever publicity they can get to add to incomes. And during the war when the U. S. Treasury, USO, Red Cross and other fund-raising organizations appropriated certain amounts to be used for hiring writers, we allowed some of our reporters to "take the easy money."

Now that the war is over we are returning to our long-time rule of "serving one master." Regular reporters will not be allowed to take on outside publicity jobs, which are designed to gouge the papers of free advertising blurbs. We pay wages high enough to make it unnecessary for our reporters to take on these extra income chores.

The practise of trying to buy free space by putting reporters on organization payrolls is an abomination, and we hope the ASNE lists all its members in a crusade to stop it. There is no defense for it under ordinary circumstances. News should be judged solely upon merit and not on the amount of extra money a reporter gets for writing the press agent stuff.

Several members who are struggling with the problem of what to do about outside jobs have written that they found last month's discussion helpful. It is continued—and ended—here, unless any member has further ideas to offer.

Few on Oregon Journal Seek Other Occupation

THE JOURNAL never has had any objection to staff members doing outside work on their own time providing such work has The Journal's approval. Very few of our people are now engaged in any sort of publicity. One of our staff members teaches classes in journalism at a local college while one or two others are correspondents for Editor & Publisher, Time, etc.

DONALD J. STERLING
Managing Editor
Oregon Journal, Portland

Fargo Forum Permits No Publicity Jobs

• By H. D. PAULSON, Editor
The Fargo Forum

THERE CAN BE no argument on the point of whether sports writers—or writers in any department of a newspaper—should have any interest other than the newspaper they serve.

Sure, there was a time when some newspapers not only permitted news writers to have outside writing interests, but actually encouraged such practice. It made things easier on the newspaper counting room.

On our own newspaper we have long since banned the practice. There are no written or published regulations on the subject. The writers just know they cannot serve as publicity agents for wrestling hacks or seekers after political fame—and all's going well.

As to the sports section, particularly, I know that Fargo Forum readers appreciate the fact that our men are free from interest in this or that promotion—with resultant increased confidence in what we print.

John Knight Says—

SPORTS WRITERS are bemoaning recent football scandals and fixed fights. How then, in good conscience, can they continue to give columns of space to shady promoters, broken-down fighters and phony wrestlers while good, clean amateur sports get the brush-off in most metropolitan gazettes?—JOHN S. KNIGHT, in The Editor's Note Book.

On Atlanta Journal Strict Rule Prevails Against Other Work

• By W. S. KIRKPATRICK
Managing Editor
The Atlanta Journal

THE Atlanta Journal maintains a manual setting forth policies, rules and other details relating to the editorial department. Item number one of this manual reads as follows:

"Outside work and remuneration. Members of the news department of The Journal are not permitted to act as correspondents for any other newspaper, whether local or out-of-town.

"No staff member may accept money, or anything else of value for writing, editing or causing to be printed in The Journal any news story, feature or article. This applies to charity drives, political campaigns, private enterprise promotions and all other forms of publicity. All employees are on a full-time employment basis and any time not spent working for The Journal is presumed to be devoted to recreation that will help to keep the employee in good health and highest fitness for duty.

"Inasmuch as The Journal is vitally interested in the success of most local community activities, such as the Community Chest, Red Cross, etc., the services of our staff are to be freely extended to these organizations at all times. But these services must be by assignment of news executives, or by voluntary action of the employee, with the understanding that there is to be no compensation other than the salary regularly paid by The Journal, and the satisfaction of lending a hand to worthy community activities.

"News department employees may write, on their own time, occasional articles for established national periodicals for remuneration.

"Staff members must NOT accept gifts of merchandise or anything else of value from stores, merchants or any business institution."

This rule has worked very well with us. Every old employee was required to read the manual at the time it was compiled, and all new employees are required to read it when beginning. Therefore, there is no misunderstanding as to just what is permitted and what is not.



LESTER MARKEL
The New York Times

AS SUNDAY EDITOR of The New York Times, Lester Markel was known to members long before joining the Society last fall. A New Yorker by birth, he attended the College of the City of New York and was one of the earliest graduates of the Pulitzer School (now the Graduate School) of Journalism at Columbia, taking his Litt B. there in 1914.

That year he became a reporter on the old New York Tribune, and by 1919 was assistant managing editor. He moved over to The Times as Sunday editor in 1923.

Mr. Markel married Meta Edman, also of New York, in 1917. They have one daughter, Helen (Mrs. David Herrmann), a writer of short stories and magazine articles.

The function of the ideal Sunday newspaper as Mr. Markel sees it is to provide three elements: The news of Saturday; the background of the news of the week; and something of permanent value.

"In these days of great issues," he says, "it is not enough for the newspaper to supply only the facts; it must provide the background also. Background is the deeper sense of the news. It places a particular event in the larger flow of events. It is the color, the atmosphere, the human elements that give meaning to a fact. In short, it is setting and sequence and, above all, significance.

"Background—or interpretation—

Meet Some New ASNE Members...

is not opinion. What you see or verify is news; what you know is background; what you feel is opinion."

Set up separately, the Sunday department of The Times has its own reporters, correspondents and copy desk. The main news section of the paper is developed by the news department. The other sections are the concern of the Sunday editor.

FRANK C. CLOUGH Speidel Newspapers

FRANK C. CLOUGH, editorial director of Speidel Newspapers, was a protege of William Allen White, a cub reporter on the Emporia Gazette in 1920, later city editor and for 13 years managing editor of the paper. After serving his novitiate on The Gazette, he spent a year as a reporter on the Kansas City Star, then returned to Emporia where he stayed until 1942. Out of that experience he wrote "William Allen White of Emporia" (Whittlesey House, 1941). On leave of absence, as assistant to Byron Price in the Office of Censorship when Mr. White died, he decided not to return to Emporia.

Instead he went to New York as business publications editor, soon learned he couldn't be happy out of the newspaper business. In 1945 he joined Speidel Newspapers, whose nine affiliated dailies are located in seven cities from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Salinas, Calif.

The editorial office of the chain is in Palo Alto, Mr. Clough's headquarters. Business office is in Colorado Springs. When Speidel editors meet there, at the Antlers Hotel, Mr. Clough recalls with delight the days when he sold papers on the streets of Colorado Springs—and the exclusive Antlers wouldn't allow paper boys to peddle their wares in the hotel.

Born in Conway Springs, Kansas, Sept. 4, 1900, Mr. Clough is married and has one son, James Rice Clough, 3. He is a member of the National Press Club, San Francisco Press Club and Delta Sigma Chi.

A new member of ASNE, Mr. Clough will feel quite at home at the convention, having attended several meetings as a guest of Mr. White and later of members whom he met through the Office of Censorship.

JAMES F. DORAN Schenectady Union-Star

"WHEN Horace Greeley uttered his now famous 'go west, young man,' the vast percentage of Hoosier-born newspapermen faced east and began a mass migration," says James F. Doran, editor of The Schenectady Union-Star. "It was their manifestation of the rugged individualism that has become the birthright of Indiana."

"I'm not quite sure whether it was a case of follow-the-leader or the lure of greener fields that brought me to the east, but I think the nod goes to the latter—greener fields and better pay."

Born in South Bend, July 23, 1906, Mr. Doran was bitten by the newspaper bug while attending high school there. He corresponded for the now defunct News-Times and after cubbing a couple of years in South Bend went to Lansing, Mich., then Detroit, hence to Chicago, Youngstown, O., Vincennes, Ind., Albany, N. Y., back to Chicago and finally Schenectady.

Meanwhile he had attended three colleges, where ever his work took him, and taught in one, Siena College at Loudonville, N. Y., for three years.

His extra-curricular activities include serving as state director of publicity for the 1947 cancer campaign in New York; as a member of the legislative committee of the New York State Society of Editors; on the board of directors of the Schenectady Safety Council; committeeman for Schenectady's Sesqui-Centennial, 1948, and journalism adviser at Siena College.

Mr. Doran's spare time is spent with his family. He and Mrs. Doran, the former Lorene Nees of Frankfort, Ind., have two sons, Terry, 11, and Billy, 7.

Impassioned Plea

NEARLY 1000 guests are expected at the banquet, April 19. Please don't expect a front-row table unless you made your reservation early, as the seating chart is being made up according to date of reservation.

There are no reserved seats for the daily luncheons.

DAVID SILVERMAN Minneapolis Star

LIVING refutation of the adage that to achieve success you must leave your home town is David Silverman. Born and schooled in Minneapolis, Dave (as even the copy boys call him)



DAVID SILVERMAN

was only 30 when, after a newsroom career that started as office boy, he was named managing editor of The Minneapolis Star in 1933.

Working briefly in Duluth, reporter and copy desk, he returned to The Star and from the rim went on to news editor, city editor and managing editor. He put in one stretch as combination m.e. and c.e., but even this double role did not faze him, for he is one of the most diligent workers on his staff. Arriving early and leaving late, he prefers to spend as much time as possible in the newsroom, rather than in his office. His obsession is fairness to all sides, and he is death on any story that lacks it.

After hours he finds his relaxation chiefly in the company of his family (he and Mrs. Silverman have two daughters) and on an occasional fishing trip. His boast that he has caught his limit is a standing office joke; the staff knows his personal limit is precisely one.

Booklet on Governors Reveals Texas History

DURING 1946, Texas centennial year, Publisher Houston Harte ran a series of short features on the governors of Texas in the San Angelo Standard-Times. Texans were delighted and outlanders found a lot they couldn't learn from travel books or movies. Now the articles, written by Paul Bolton, have been reprinted in an attractively illustrated brochure. Although designed as a brief biography of each governor, it actually presents a lively picture of the Lone Star state's romantic history from the six-shooter days of Texan independence to the present.

Special Identification For New Members

RED STARS on their badges make it easy to spot new members at the convention.

There's no reception committee to greet the freshmen; instead each older member is a committee-of-one to extend a friendly hand to any new member and introduce him around. Such a plan was first suggested by W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News, when he was president. Works fine.

H. CLAY TATE Bloomington Pantagraph

H. CLAY TATE, editor of The Daily Pantagraph, Bloomington, Ill., is a native of Eldorado, Ill., land of coal instead of gold. A graduate of Illinois College, alma mater of William Jennings Bryan



H. CLAY TATE

and of Lincoln's law partner, Mr. Tate edited the college newspaper and got into a scrap with the faculty over restriction of student liberties. He worked on newspapers in Jacksonville, Harrisburg and Springfield (all Illinois) before joining the

Pantagraph in 1935.

Sent to interview Miss Springfield of 1928, he married her the following year. They have one child, Joan, 15, who wants to be a newspaper gal.

Editor of The Pantagraph for two years, Mr. Tate has been in newspaper work for 20, doing everything from stuffing papers and proof reading on up,—and has never hated to go to work a single morning yet. He originated a community betterment program for small towns being carried out by The Pantagraph and the University of Illinois which is attracting attention in many states. His by-line appears from time to time in magazines; and his extra-curricular activities include gardening and wood-working.

He was a member of the Seminar for Editorial Writing of the American Press Institute last year.

JOHN F. DAY Dayton Daily News

ON THE SCHOLARLY side, John F. Day has been going to the head of the class ever since he was graduated cum laude from the University of Kentucky in 1935. There he had



JOHN F. DAY

edited the school newspaper and was president of the student body.

A native of Fleming County, Ky., he began newspaper work on the Lexington Leader, then went with the AP in Kentucky and West Virginia, and on to Harvard as a Nieman fellow. In 1943-44

he was chief of the spot news section of OWI, Overseas Branch, and the following year joined the Cleveland Press as feature writer. In December, 1945, he became managing editor of the Dayton Daily News.

He is the author of Bloody Ground (Doubleday, Doran, 1941), a sociological study of the mountaineers of the South, principally Kentucky, and was a member of the first seminar of the American Press Institute.

Information Completed On Charter Members

ALL three of the members about whom information was lacking in the list of chartered members last month since have been accounted for.

Edward A. Dickson left newspaper work when the Los Angeles Herald bought The Express, and organized the Western Federal Savings and Loan Association, Los Angeles, of which he is president.

Merton E. Burke, of the New York News, Baltimore Sun, and Washington News, is dead.

And '30' also has been written for John J. Spurgeon, who was with the Philadelphia Public Ledger when he joined ASNE.

NEW MEMBERS who have not yet been covered in The Bulletin are requested to send pictures and very brief biographies for the May issue.

★ Notes on ASNE Members ★

AT LONG LAST editors are again finding time for winter vacations. W. S. Gilmore, editor of The Detroit News, went to Cuba for a rest. N. R. Howard, editor of the Cleveland News, chose Jamaica.

H. D. PAULSON, editor of The Fargo Forum, travels far and fast. He sent along a feature he'd written on an air trip to Anchorage, Alaska, and followed it up with a note from Miami. "Doug Fairbanks and I made the trip to Alaska," he says. (That would be Vernon E. Fairbanks, executive editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press.) Mrs. Paulson is with him in Miami, where they will stay until heading north for the ASNE meeting.

PAUL SMITH, managing editor of the Plainsfield Courier-News, was a guest of the Navy on a two weeks trip on the USS Wisconsin from the naval depot at Bayonne, N. J. to the Caribbean. At Panama Mr. Smith forsook the Navy, flew to Rio.

MANCHESTER BODDY, publisher of the Los Angeles Daily News, went to Europe as guest of the War Department, stayed three months instead of the customary three weeks. Now home he is finishing a book, besides writing a column a day for his paper, and averaging three speeches a week.

JONATHAN DANIELS, who has been without portfolio on the Raleigh News and Observer since his return

from the White House has been named executive editor. Josephus Daniels continues as editor.

FRANK D. SCHROTH, publisher of the Brooklyn Eagle, has been named to the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

A. O. H. GRIER, editor of the Wilmington (Del.) Journal-Evening celebrated his 80th birthday last month. This June Mr. Grier will begin his 63rd year on Wilmington newspapers.

F. A. MILLER, publisher of The South Bend Tribune, wrote many of the articles appearing in the 75th anniversary edition of the paper, March 9. No one on the staff is better qualified to do so. Son of one of the founders, the late Alfred B. Miller, Mr. Miller started with The Tribune 60 years ago.

One Man's Guess Is as Good as Another's On Derivation of 'Bulldog' Edition

"WITH commendable restraint," writes John L. Morrison, editor of the Greenville (Pa.) Record-Argus, "I have been keeping silent until some of my betters give the answer to the ASNE Bulletin's \$64 question. What is the meaning of 'bulldog' in the bulldog edition?"

"I have never heard the origin of the word questioned nor on the other, or left, hand have I ever heard a pontifical deliverance from one who might have been around when the term originated. Back in my callow youth I have heard tell that the bulldog edition was applied to a pre-date, or pre-daylight, delivered edition of a morning newspaper. In rural districts most of the subscribers kept bulldogs, presenting a sufficiently interesting problem to the carriers as to give rise to the term.

"I'm quite sure this was the belief in the office of the Pittsburg (no h) Leader, now defunct. This writer had a slight affiliation with The Leader entourage. Willa Cather worked there. (She was a good writer, too.)"

If you don't like that explanation, here's another, from Frederick J. Haskin who, following the Bulletin's inquiry, printed it in his own column:

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT
WILBUR FORREST New York Herald Tribune

1st VICE PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD Cleveland News

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN C. CANHAM Christian Science Monitor

SECRETARY
DWIGHT YOUNG Dayton Journal-Herald

TREASURER
B. M. MOELWAY Washington Star

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HAMILTON OWENS Baltimore Sun
DWIGHT PERRIN Philadelphia Record
ROY ROBERTS Kansas City Star
BASIL L. WALTERS Chicago Daily News

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SULZBERGER CHALLENGED ON CHAIN OWNERSHIP

• By JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editor and Publisher, Knight Newspapers

IN HIS otherwise excellent address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Arthur Hays Sulzberger of the New York Times made one statement which ought to be challenged. It was this:

"Personally, I am not in favor of chain newspapers. I believe that newspapers should be leaders in the community but, at the same time, hold that the thinking that precedes that leadership should be 'home grown'."

Mr. Sulzberger's generalization about chain newspapers is the sort of argument that one might expect from Morris Ernst or any of the other numerous self-appointed saviors of the press.

Granting Mr. Sulzberger's right to abhor chain newspapers, even though circumstances beyond his control have actually made him a chain newspaper proprietor (New York Times and the Chattanooga Times), I take exception to his implication that a group of newspapers cannot actually be operated in the public interest.

If all newspaper publishers were as conscientious in their conception of public responsibility as Mr. Sulzberger, I would applaud most enthusiastically his views on "home grown" leadership.

Unfortunately, however, "home grown" leadership is not always of the moral and ethical character typified by Mr. Sulzberger. In too many American cities, the "home grown" flavor stems from public utilities, railroads, political machines, banks and industrial directorates.

In several situations with which I am thoroughly familiar, "home grown" leadership was in effect no leadership at all but rather a form of special pleading for the status quo.

The newspapers in question were in reality nothing more

than house organs for the interests and the political party with which the proprietors were aligned.

"Home grown" leadership was actually "home grown" protection; protection for the real estate interests which opposed public housing, protection for the utilities, protection for the manufacturers, protection for the gamblers who were corrupting public officials, protection for the rich and powerful business connections of the publisher.

When these newspapers became members of a group, I can testify that all such affiliations were immediately broken; that editors were instructed to place public responsibility and service above all other considerations.

I can testify further that for the first time in their years of employment, the staffs of these newspapers were fully emancipated from the curse of "sacred cows" and "blacklists."

Their subsequent growth in prestige and circulation is adequate evidence that the communities in which they are published are quick to sense the difference between newspapers which advance and defend the public interest to those which serve privilege and power.

"Home grown" leadership, as conceived by Mr. Sulzberger, is a splendid formula for the press of any community but I regret to say that in many instances, the "home grown" ingredients which comprise that formula are not always fragrant.

I readily concede that the group ownership of newspapers has its shortcomings but it erects no unsurmountable barrier against enlightened, progressive local leadership by each individual editor of the group.

In Mr. Sulzberger's talk, he mentioned the dilemma in which

he found himself when he and the editor of the Chattanooga Times were in disagreement during the Roosevelt-Willkie campaign of 1940.

Mr. Sulzberger's solution was to give the editor who favored Roosevelt a six-months' leave of absence while Mr. S., who was supporting Willkie, dictated Chattanooga policy from his office in the New York Times.

In view of Mr. Sulzberger's expressed dislike of chain journalism, would it not have been more forthright for him to have sold the Chattanooga paper to his editor, thus leaving the banners of "home grown" leadership flying high and his own conscience completely at rest?

Sulzberger Said:

(From transcript of address at ASNE convention)

PERSONALLY I am not in favor of chain newspapers. I believe that newspapers should be leaders in the community, but, at the same time, hold that the thinking that precedes that leadership should be "home grown." I had good evidence of the difficulties inherent in duplicate ownership in the 1940 campaign. Mr. Ochs' heirs control The Times in Chattanooga as well as The Times in New York. However, there is no connection between the newspapers themselves other than that The Chattanooga Times now buys The New York Times service. We determined in New York, after a good deal of wrestling with the angels, to support Wendell Willkie for the Presidency. In Chattanooga the editor and his assistants wished to support Mr. Roosevelt. Those of us in New York who swung toward Willkie were normally

(Continued on next page)

PHILIP H. PARRISH of The Oregonian toured Europe last fall and on his return to Portland made some 50 speeches. His favorite fan letter, on the letterhead of a local towel manufacturer, follows:

"Some weeks ago I heard and enjoyed your talk before the Oregon Seed Growers. I thought at the time you would be interested in reading the enclosed circular about our new linen bath towel. Hope you find it of interest."

A revealing statement, Mr. Parrish says, of what one's audiences may be thinking.

FERGUSON METHODS CONDEMNED

Parrish Says Discouragement of Outside Writing, Speaking And Interests in General Could Destroy the Editorial Page

• By PHILIP H. PARRISH, Editor of the Editorial Page, The Oregonian, Portland.

IF IT weren't for the fact that members of ASNE are rugged enough to take care of themselves, I would be disturbed over the editorial page panel (at the April convention). A stranger sitting in on that panel might easily have drawn the conclusion that the membership subscribed to the military methods employed by Mr. Ferguson on the Milwaukee Journal. Perhaps it does. There was no time for adequate discussion.

However, I sincerely hope there are a lot of us less inclined to straitjacket the editorial staff—more inclined to get the best possible men and give them the greatest possible liberty—the latter being quite an item. In fact,

if Mr. Ferguson's system is general, or inclined to become general, we can expect, and with reason, more and more criticism of the editorial page as the controlled spokesman for a point of view. That could be rather bad in the long run. Personally, I think "discouragement" of outside writing, speaking and interests in general is an affront to intelligence and could destroy the editorial page.

How paradoxical in one very important respect! The staff doesn't join outside meetings; it attempts to force such meetings into the editorial office. At least, that is manna to the ego of the editor.

months' leave of absence with pay—we announced the fact and the reasons in the columns of the affected paper—and both newspapers supported Willkie. Personally, I didn't like the solution, but it was the only one which rang truest in my ears and I like it better than anything short of not owning newspapers in two communities.

I hope you agree with me that this did not represent a policy contrary to the one of editorial freedom of which I have previously spoken. We just couldn't carry water on two shoulders. On the other hand when, in 1944, we determined to support Mr. Roosevelt once more and our Washington correspondent, Mr. Krock, didn't see eye to eye with us, he asked me what I expected him to do in his column. I told him that I hoped he would always write what he believed. Mr. Krock's views appeared under his name on the same page where the views of the papers were expressed. Incidentally, had that page been removed, it would not have been possible to tell from the news which candidate was being supported, and that is the kind of objectivity we try to achieve.

On the Other Hand:

Robertson Lauds Editorial Panel, Sulzberger Talk

• By HUGH W. ROBERTSON, Westchester County Publisher.

IN RETROSPECT, the 1947 convention was good, one of the best in the 12 years I have been a member in good standing and attendance. And I think we give entirely too little credit to the advance-man work of Casey Jones and Ben McKelway in program arrangement. Certainly this last one was far too good for us to show such ingratitude as to elect Casey to the onerous post of treasurer.

Outstanding in my mind were the frank, intimate talk by Arthur Sulzberger and the excellent advice from Don Ferguson and Harry Ashmore on editorial writing. Those three alone were worth the air fare. Frankly I get much more from our professional round-tables than from the big brass of Washington. I scent, as did John Knight in his recent soul-searching (May Bulletin), the attempt on the part of the Administration to sell us a bill of goods from their charm school.

Two other thoughts:

(1) There was an evident effort this year to give the 'little' member a small place in the ASNE sun, a trait which has not always been evident in past years when a self-perpetuating group recognized ability only in the ranks of large-circulation papers.

(2) Why not abolish our committee on resolutions? Or at least arrange for better media of expression? As it is, we wrangle interminable over commas, amend amendments until even Oveta Hobby gets her pretty head awl, finally accept something Dave Lawrence has brought in at the last minute, and then forget for a year what we adopted.

That's about all, except that it is unfortunate for most of us in the metropolitan area that the AP and the ANPA follow so closely. I was brought up down in Arkansas to be conventional—but not three in a row. Maybe it would be better to move them around to Christmas. Then the neighbors might think it was the Yule log instead of me that was being lugged in.

Absenteeism Decried

IF THE ASNE is a serious-minded organization, and I believe it is, why did only a handful of the several hundred members in attendance consider the Saturday afternoon business meeting important?

It seemed to me there was nothing more important in Washington at that moment than to phrase and frame a hard-hitting declaration of principles about freedom of the press, our professional defense against the underlying viciousness of the Luce-Hutchins report. But no, the greatest editorial brains in the world were content to permit a resolutions committee to do the work and were, for the most part, satisfied to accept the report without examination or discussion.

I wonder what would have happened if some member had suggested the absence of a quorum?

I can't figure it out, but maybe I'm more worried about witches than my fellow editors who breath the rarified air of the upper stratas of journalism.—PAUL A. SCHRADER, managing editor, Toledo Blade.

Model For the Future

YOU MAY quote me as approving the businesslike attitude of (almost) all the delegates during the sessions; and, on the other hand, the unbusinesslike ditto which set in immediately after the final session. The program was interesting and useful. I liked the way Guild leader Murray and the ASNE handled each other; it seemed to me to be in some fashion a model for such contacts between management and its organized staffs. The new president of ASNE is, in my opinion, a superlatively fine choice.—BEN B. JOHNSTON, managing editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Must It Be Washington?

I THOUGHT the sessions worth while, but I would have preferred more shop talk. This may be a purely personal reaction, as I have spent the last five years in Washington and hearing celebrities is "old hat." On the other hand, I can understand the program chairman capitalizing on the fact that celebrities are so common there.

That leads to my second im-

THE QUESTION: What did — or didn't — you like about the April convention? Please speak frankly for the benefit of the 1948 program committee.

Answers from new members appear on this page.

pression—that ASNE, in meeting year after year in the same city, any city, is neglecting some very interesting and contrasting convention cities. I would very much prefer meeting in a different city every year, and not in Washington again for at least ten years—barring some good reason. I think the experience of visiting a host of representative U.S. cities would be compensatory for any extra effort and inconveniences.—THOMAS W. HAGAN, editorial page editor, Miami Daily News.

Fresh Breezes of Thought

I FOUND it particularly refreshing to get out of our home atmosphere and to enjoy the fresh breeze of thought that came from talking with people from all over the country, as from listening to the extremely stimulating program. I think editorial writers spend much too much time in their own offices anyway, and the annual sessions are an excellent antidote.—HERBERT BRUCKER, associate editor, The Hartford Courant.

New Acquaintances

I WENT to Washington with the intention of making acquaintance of as many editors as possible from remote points and came away somewhat disappointed that I hadn't met more of them. It is, of course, extremely easy to fall in with one's own crowd in conventions, and that is what usually happens.

One of the finest things that could come out of such meetings, it seems to me, would be a broadening of one's circle of friends in the profession. This, I fully realize, is really up to the individual and it is hardly fair as a comment on the convention management. I am pointing it entirely at myself.—CARL E. LINDSTROM, managing editor, Hartford Times.

Enough About Atoms

I ENJOYED most those sessions where newspaper problems were under discussion.

Although it is good to hear about the state of the nation and the world from diplomats and statesmen, my own feeling was that we had too much national and international news and views, and not enough "just plain newspaper talk."

I learned a lot about the atomic future of mankind and the projected foreign policy of the United States . . . all well and good. But I didn't learn enough about the everyday problems faced by other newspaper editors, which could have helped me do a better and more intelligent job on my newspaper.

To turn aside from criticism (which, as a new member, I feel a bit uneasy in making), I would like to compliment the arrangements committee on doing a very fine job. It was a smooth-running convention.—ARNOLD BURNETT, managing editor, Peoria Journal-Transcript.

Happy Contrast

I PARTICULARLY liked the three-man discussion idea which was presented on the mornings of the convention. The subjects chosen were timely, and I thought the speakers without exception did a lucid, informative job. The addresses of Under Secretary Acheson and former Senator Austin were excellent, and the talk of General Eisenhower was a knock-out as always. I believe the choice of Mr. Lillenthal and Dr. Bush for banquet speakers was also good.

On the whole I don't like conventions and think they are dead-ly bores, and that is why this was such a happy contrast.—PHILIP W. PORTER, editorial editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Shop Talks Rated High

THE PART that interested me, as a newcomer, was the forum on editorial writing, which I found most constructive, and which I hope can be repeated on other occasions. I think it is an excellent idea for men doing the same kind of work from many parts of the country to come together once in a while, if for nothing else than to talk shop.—JOHN H. CRIDER, editor-in-chief, The Boston Herald.

Sulzberger

(Continued from page one)

voters in the Democratic column. There is no telling that we might not have wished to stay in it had we lived in Chattanooga, but we didn't and, as the responsible parties for the policy of both newspapers, we couldn't support a Republican in the North and a Democrat in the South.

I realize that there are those who would argue that the judgment of the editor and his associate in Chattanooga should have prevailed, and that true editorial independence would permit no other course. My answer to that is that such a solution turns a newspaper into just another business in which ownership is concerned solely with profits. I have a different conception. The man who has the final responsibility of keeping a newspaper running must do more than stoke the boiler. He has to steer as well and in most cases he can do so without in any way lessening the sense of responsibility of the members of the crew.

We solved our particular situation by giving the editor and his assistant in Chattanooga six

Howard's First Month In Office Proves ASNE President's Job Is No Sinecure

A MONTH was sufficient to initiate N. R. Howard and convince him that there's more to the ASNE presidency than conducting the annual meeting and accepting the plaudits of the crowd.

On his return to Cleveland from Washington, the speaking invitations began rolling in. Mr. Howard trekked to Indianapolis to speak at a welfare conference, and to Grand Rapids to address the Michigan State Press Association. He also appeared before an Ohio legislature committee to help kill an anti-newspaper libel bill. This month, besides the inevitable commencement requests, there's the American Newspaper Guild convention.

Through Milton Murray, president, the International Executive Board of ANG asked the Society to send its president to the Guild convention in Sioux City, June 24. As no action on the invitation was taken at the April meeting, Mr. Howard polled the directors, who preponderantly favored acceptance.

Next on the agenda is a request from Dean Carl W. Ackerman of the Graduate School of Journalism for appointment, from ASNE membership, of the juries for Pulitzer prizes in newspaper categories. This was an innovation last year. There has been some dissension as to the merits of the system under which the juries submit recommendations to the Advisory Board for decision. Outstanding critic of this year's awards is Carroll Binder, whose views expressed editorially in *The Minneapolis Tribune* have been widely quoted in national magazines. Meanwhile Dean Ackerman has urged prompt appointment of the juries so they can begin at once to watch for the best examples of journalistic work in their own localities, thus insuring that all material of potential prize-winning calibre will be submitted to the Board.

Also addressed to the new president was an editorial in the May 21 issue of "Down Beat," trade journal in the music field. Noting that Mr. Howard "plays good after-hours piano with an especial fondness for Gershwin," it appealed to him to use his influ-

ence to obtain fairer coverage of musicdom in newspapers.

"When the average American newspaper isn't busily printing untruths about the music business," the editorial said, "it is using stories so colored by misinformation and bad reporting that they look like Oz seen through dracula-green lenses."

"For example, take Mr. Petrillo . . . We know he is ornery, cantankerous, often unfair, and even spiteful . . . But we also know Petrillo is not the wild-eyed demon he is painted as being in 95 per cent of the American dailies . . ."

"You are a potent man in the publishing field, Mr. Howard. Speaking as one pianoman to another, how about straightening the boys out?"

... Obituaries ...

ANTHONY J. O'MALLEY

ANTHONY J. O'MALLEY, managing editor of the *Scranton (Pa.) Times* and since 1944 a member of the ASNE, died suddenly at his home on May 1. His age was 66. He had attended the April convention and was at his desk at the *Times* office the day before his death.

Mr. O'Malley had been in the newspaper business for more than 50 years, starting work as a printer's devil in 1894. Except for two years with the *New York World*, he had been associated with the *Scranton Times* since 1903. He became managing editor in 1931.

WILLIAM R. HARLEY

AMONG the new members introduced at the Washington meeting was William R. Harley, who was elected to the Society when he joined the *Toledo Times* as associate editor in March. Suffering a heart attack in his sleep, May 12, he was found dead in his suite at the Hotel Plaza in Toledo.

Born in Delphi, Ind., in 1895, Mr. Harley began newspaper work on a weekly newspaper there, then joined the staff of the *Kokomo Tribune*. Later he was employed on the *Indianapolis*

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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1st VICE PRESIDENT

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DWIGHT PERRIN	<i>Philadelphia Bulletin</i>

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of *The Bulletin*, Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7550.

No. 286

June 1, 1947

News, *Los Angeles Times*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, and for seven years as an editorial writer on *The Dayton Journal*. He also had worked on *The Boston Herald* and for Fairchild Publications.

ERNEST F. MARLATT

ERNEST F. MARLATT, editor of the *Kenosha (Wis.) Evening News*, died May 8 at the age of 55. He had been with that newspaper since 1917, with the exception of time spent in service during World War I. In 1935 he served as president of the Wisconsin Associated Press, and had been a member of the Society since 1942.

JOHN W. POTTER

THE SOCIETY lost a fourth member in one month when John W. Potter, editor of the *Rock Island (Ill.) Argus* died of a heart attack, May 17, at his summer home near Minocqua, Wis. He had gone there after attending the Washington convention.

Born in Rock Island, in 1896, Mr. Potter attended Dartmouth and the University of Chicago and returned home to work on the newspaper his grandfather had owned. Beginning in the composing room, he later became a reporter, then city editor, before his appointment as editor.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 287

July 1, 1947

Pulitzer Prize Aid Should Be Given

EVERY newspaper man ought to do whatever he can to make fairness and truth and justice prevail in the awarding of Pulitzer prizes. I know that this year's recommendations by the newspaper juries were largely overlooked by the judges; but even so, if Dean Ackerman wants ASNE assistance in 1948 I think it should be given.

W. S. GILMORE, Editor,
The Detroit News.

Screening By Jurors Serves Good Purpose

IF ASNE is again requested to appoint jurors for the Pulitzer awards I believe it should comply. I believe this in spite of the rumblings over the handling of the awards this year in cases in which the judgment of the jurors was overridden by the Advisory Committee. In the overall picture I think the jurors can feel that their work was important even when the outcome was different from what they recommended.

In general, there is bound to be a mass of material submitted for the newspaper awards—far too much for the Advisory Committee to sift out and pass on. It is worth while, I think, for the ASNE jurors to do this sifting and make recommendations, even if the recommendations are not always accepted. Such screening by experienced men makes certain that the outstanding material reaches the committee.

Often there will be cases where several contestants run neck and neck and it is difficult to say that the prize should go to this one rather than that. My suggestion would be that each jury make three selections, ranking them in order, with the understanding that the committee make its selection from one of the three. From its

greater experience it might have reasons that would turn the scale to No. 2 or No. 3, and I see no real reason for ASNE jurors to object to such an arrangement. They shouldn't be oversensitive.

Under a scheme of this sort I believe busy members of ASNE would feel they were making a contribution of sufficient value to warrant their giving the time to go to New York to assist in determining the Pulitzer awards.

H. J. HASKELL, Editor,
The Kansas City Star.

SHOULD ASNE AGAIN APPOINT PULITZER JURIES?

Sampling of 1947 jurors opens way for membership discussion before President and Board act on invitation to cooperate with Columbia University next year.

Serious Embarrassment Possible for Members

IT IS my personal view that the Society should consider very seriously before taking on this (Pulitzer jury) job again. Authority for final Pulitzer decisions must rest with the Advisory Committee rather than with the ASNE jurors, yet the final decision implies the agreement of the jurors. Under these circumstances I can imagine serious embarrassment for ASNE members under given circumstances. I was myself in very sharp disagreement with the decision of the Advisory Committee in the category to which I was assigned.

ERWIN D. CANHAM,
Editor,
The Christian Science Monitor.

Present System Unsatisfactory

IT IS no secret that there has been criticism of the manner in which the Pulitzer prizes are awarded.

It so happens that in serving as a member of the last group of juries appointed by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the recommendation that Don Sterling and I made was approved. But others, submitted after arduous and careful consideration by highly qualified newspapermen, were not followed by the Board which has the final voice.

In one instance when I served it seemed to me that a prize was awarded for material which I had not even seen.

From the standpoint of Columbia School of Journalism and in respect to the memory of its founder, it is important to improve the system by which prizes are awarded. The method of having juries to counsel the Board doubtless seemed foolproof procedure. In practice it has not worked out satisfactorily.

Therefore, until the system is corrected so that ASNE will not bear the onus for possible rejection of the recommendations of juries which it selects, the society should refrain from further acceptance of a measure of responsibility without having adequate or final authority.

A. H. KIRCHHOFFER,
Managing Editor,
Buffalo Evening News.

Are Jurors Superfluous Or Not The Right Kind?

IN MAKING Pulitzer awards for distinguished journalistic endeavor in 1946 the Advisory Board of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University had before it the recommendations of eight juries. Each of these juries consisted of two members of the ASNE experienced in the

field of endeavor for which prizes were being awarded.

Each of the juries spent at least two days carefully examining the voluminous entries. Most of the juries indicated first, second, third, fourth and fifth choices in their written recommendations to the Advisory Board.

The Board appears to have acquiesced in the first choices of only three of the eight juries. The first choices of four of the juries were rejected. One of the awards went to a candidate whose work the screening jury did not consider sufficiently distinguished to include among the five selections it was asked to make.

Six of the eight prizes were awarded to organizations represented on the Advisory Board. Of these only two appear to have been the first recommendation of a jury.

Does the Advisory Board not need the assistance of ASNE jurors in selecting recipients for Pulitzer prizes? Or did the ASNE fail to provide the Advisory Board with the kind of jurors whose evaluations it respects? Both questions should be considered by the ASNE before going ahead with the jury arrangement.

CARROLL BINDER,
Editorial Editor,
Minneapolis Tribune.

Maurice S. Sherman, 74, Editor of Hartford Courant

A NEWSPAPERMAN for more than 50 years and one of the most eminent



editors in the Society, of which he was a charter member, Maurice S. Sherman died in Hartford Hospital, June 27, of a heart attack. His age was 74.

Mr. Sherman had been publisher of *The Courant* since 1944 and its editor-in-chief for the previous 18 years. From 1912 to 1926 he was editor of *The Springfield Union*, having begun his newspaper career there in the sports department on his graduation from Dartmouth in 1894.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Florine Sunderland Sherman, and a daughter, Mrs. Boardman F. Lockwood.

Time And A Fair Trial May Yet Solve Problem

A NUMBER of the members of the ASNE who served as Pulitzer jurors this year undoubtedly were annoyed, to put it mildly, when the Advisory Board rejected four of the eight selections.

Very little was said publicly by the jurors. Undoubtedly that was so because newspapermen, as a rule, do not like to wash their dirty linen in public. Had the Advisory Board overruled as many of its juries in the other prizes I am sure that the overruled jurors would have squawked loudly.

At first blush, as a juror, I would say to hell with it. However, since the alternative to juries of newspapermen is juries of faculty and students at the Columbia School of Journalism, I think Journalism will be better served, in the long run, by a continuation of ASNE jurors.

I certainly think that the ASNE should cooperate with Columbia University by naming Pulitzer jurors from the membership for several more years, to see how it works out.

If the Advisory Board continues to show a lack of confidence in the ASNE jurors, the subject should come up for study again. Possibly some new blood is needed on the Advisory Board.

E. Z. DIMITMAN,
Executive Editor,
The Chicago Sun.

ASNE Should Continue

I FEEL that the Society should continue its cooperation with the Pulitzer Award juries.

DONALD J. STERLING,
Managing Editor,
Oregon Journal, Portland.

Most Everybody Happy

I AM in favor of ASNE jurors for the Pulitzer Prizes. I served as one by appointment of Wilbur Forrest and enjoyed and, I think, profited by the experience. So far as I know everybody seemed happy about the matter except one gentleman whose name I have fortunately forgotten who raised some kind of a to-do because I believe things didn't go just to suit him.

DWIGHT S. PERRIN,
Managing Editor,
The Philadelphia Bulletin.

I TRUST that Mr. Sulzberger's remarks about chain newspapers and Mr. Knight's remarks about the home-owned house organs of the private vested interests have been duly passed on to Dr. Hutchins' Commission on the Freedom of the Press.

I think it is rather amusing when publishers and editors start saying the same things about our vaunted free press which they deny so sanctimoniously when the criticism comes from others.

MICHAEL BRADSHAW, Editor
Toledo Blade

An Editor's Question: Where Does ANG Stand?

ALTHOUGH he addressed the American Newspaper Guild convention in Sioux City, June 24, as president of ASNE, N. R. Howard made it clear that under the Society's purposely loose structure he could speak only for himself, not for the membership or even for the Board of Directors.

Describing newspapers as a lone wolf business, Mr. Howard said, "Life is full of promoters, of sectarian movements, of industrial interests, of racketeer interests, of sincere evangelists, who do not want all the truth published and will fight the newspaper which tries to publish all the truth." Continuing, he warned, "We must never sell out to, or pull our punches for anybody... We of our business are either for our business, or we line up against it."

Mr. Howard voiced admiration for individual Guild members on labor union beats who have called the truth and stayed with the facts in spite of being pressured, embarrassed and browbeaten by labor leaders, but he raised a question as to where the ANG itself stands: "Is it for us or against us? Is there included in the Guild's primary concept of its function a purpose to protect the existence of newspapers against the onslaught of ill wishers? Or is it one more enemy, one more pressure group, in the ocean of apathy and hostility which fate decrees must surround our business?"

And every other editor in the United States, he said, is wondering about that too.

HOWARD'S SELECTIONS FOR 1947-8 COMMITTEES

IN APPOINTING the 1947-48 committees, President Howard made a mental ASNE distribution map of the U.S.A. and from it drew the names of 31 members from 21 far-flung states and the District of Columbia. Nine are from cities under 100,000 population; 11 between 100,000 and 500,000; and 11 over 500,000. At the extremities are four members from cities under 50,000 and four in the over a million class. His list includes several new members and others who have never served on committees before.

As the Program Chairman carries the convention burden single-handed, Mr. Howard has abandoned the formality of a committee. The Memorial Committee also has been reduced to one; obituaries will be carried in *The Bulletin* and deceased members will be memorialized at the convention. For more efficient operation, the Resolutions Committee has been decreased, from 11 to six. Situated close to the population center of the country, the Membership Chairman is in a position to scan the horizon in all directions for likely candidates. The Education Chairman will name the two ASNE representatives on the ACEJ Accreditation Plan, and the Eligibility Committee automatically consists of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Editor of *The Bulletin*.

PROGRAM

DWIGHT PERRIN, Philadelphia Bulletin

NOMINATIONS

W. R. WALTON, South Bend Tribune, chairman
TALBOT PATRICK, Goldsboro News-Argus
FRANK CLARVOE, San Francisco News
FRED W. STEIN, Binghamton Press
MILTON TABOR, Topeka Daily Capital

RESOLUTIONS

RICHARD W. CLARKE, New York Daily News, chairman
J. K. WALSH, Kalamazoo Gazette
JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Tulsa Tribune
McCLELLAN VAN DER VEER, Birmingham News and Age-Herald
PAUL S. WALCOTT, Greenfield Recorder-Gazette

MEMBERSHIP

ARTHUR PIPER, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, chairman
CARL BRAZIER, Seattle Times
A. Y. ARONSON, Louisville Times
HORACE HALL, Dothan Eagle
C. C. HEMENWAY, Hartford Times

ELIGIBILITY

DWIGHT YOUNG, Dayton Journal-Herald, chairman
ALEXANDER F. JONES, Washington Post
ALICE FOX PITTS, ASNE Bulletin

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ERWIN D. CANHAM, Christian Science Monitor, chairman
LEON STOLZ, Chicago Tribune
LESTER MARKEL, New York Times

SAMUEL L. LATIMER JR., The State, Columbia
FELIX McKNIGHT, Dallas Morning News

WORLD DISSEMINATION OF NEWS

HAMILTON OWENS, Baltimore Sunpapers, chairman
PAUL BLOCK JR., Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Toledo Blade-Times
HAROLD WHEELER, Boston Traveler
LLOYD M. FELMLY, Newark Evening News

PRESS RELATIONS

B. M. McKELWAY, Washington Star

EDUCATION

DWIGHT MARVIN, Troy Record

MEMORIAL

GROVE PATTERSON, Toledo Blade

Too-Popular-Banquet Problem Is Tossed In Members' Laps

"WHAT about next year's banquet seating mess?" we asked the ASNE president.

"Put a limit on tickets instead of letting members take two or three tables," he replied promptly. "Don't sell to outsiders, and keep the banquet down to one room."

"A glib solution, Mr. Howard, but it won't work. The problem is too many editors, not how many bring too many guests. This year only three reserved more than a table, 12 took a full table to themselves, and we never have sold tickets to outsiders."

"Didn't Washington correspondents by the drove buy them up? I heard they did."

"Then you heard wrong. A great many members invited them as guests, but that's their privilege. Years ago Dave Lawrence made a rule that only members could buy tickets. It was a good rule, it's been strictly enforced and it's ridiculous for anyone to say—"

"All right, forget that suggestion" the president placated. "Let's simply limit tickets to four to a member and avoid all that overcrowding."

"Faulty mathematics," we sniffed. "Suppose 325 members attend again next year—and you know very well that members who want more than four tickets will get them from ones who aren't using their quota—you've sold 1200 tickets and overflowed both the Presidential and Congressional rooms at the Statler because their total capacity is 1101 including the head table."

The president looked thoughtful. "That second room is bad," he said. "Too far from the speakers. People get restless, start talking and disturb the program. How many does the Presidential room hold?"

"Around 650. You could just squeeze in if the Board limited each member to TWO tickets, self and guest, and that's counting on some 50 members coming alone as they did at the last meeting. But how would the membership feel about such drastic restrictions?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Why not ask them to air their views in *The Bulletin*?"

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOUTH

• V. M. NEWTON JR., Whose Public Service Campaigns Have Set Tampa Agog

RATS the size of small cats in Tampa schools and hookworm, graft and petty politics in schools throughout Florida started the Tampa Morning Tribune on a campaign to improve conditions. Last month the House, in session at Tallahassee, unanimously adopted a resolution lauding the Tribune for its relentless crusade, citing the fact that it had given \$50,000. worth of space to schools at a time when it was rationing advertising.

The man behind the two-year campaign was V. M. Newton, Jr., managing editor. Final score: A new program passed by the Legislature which, among other things, doubles the state's annual appropriation for schools, 18 to 36 millions and ups teachers' salaries (former average, \$700; new scale, \$1000 minimum to \$3600 top).

"No flash in the pan," Mr. Newton says of the school expose, "but an example of The Tampa Tribune's service to the public."

The record for the past three years includes 14 campaigns dealing with everything from medieval prison conditions to the need for a bathing beach at Tampa Bay. Last spring, aroused over the arrest of three cab drivers in two rape cases within a week, The Tribune had the records checked of 683 men who held taxicab drivers' permits, found that 118 were convicted criminals who had served time for such offenses as murder, rape and armed robbery. Cab owners and the AFL promptly began a purge and the city cab commission passed a regulation barring ex-convicts from obtaining permits as cab drivers.

Code Used In Germany

MY sincere thanks for the copy of the ASNE Code of Ethics. It is being used in preparation of a code for German Newspapers in the U.S. Occupation Zone. We trust it will prove a step forward in their re-education and reorientation towards a democratic press.

RAYMOND J. STOVER,
Chief, Press Branch,
Office of Military Government
for Hesse.

• HODDING CARTER, Pulitzer Prize Winning Editor of the Delta (Miss.) Democrat-Times

"HE GIVES promise of becoming one of the most distinguished small-town editors since William Allen White," says the Saturday Evening Post for June 14 in a full-length article on Hodding Carter, editor of the Delta Democrat-Times. The Greenville, Miss., editor was elected to ASNE in the under-50,000 population class last year.

A native of Louisiana, Mr. Carter went North for his education — Bowdoin and Columbia — returned to lecture at Tulane and work for the New Orleans Item. Fired as Jackson, Miss., correspondent of the AP in 1932, according to the story, he vowed he'd never work for anyone else again, and began "a game of tag with short-term and long-term notes."

The Democrat-Times is now a thriving newspaper with a circulation of 10,000 and Mr. Carter's editorials on racial intolerance last year won him a Pulitzer prize. Summing him up The Post article says,

"He is a writer of distinction, author of three books, an able journalist who was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard and who has had many offers to 'come up East.' He elected to stay home. There seemed to be a job to do and he thought that Southerners rather than Northerners were best qualified to do it."

ASNE Members at Work—and Play

COMPLETING his year as a Nieman fellow, Francis P. Locke who had been editor of the Miami Daily News has been transferred to the Dayton Daily News as associate editor. Editor of the Dayton paper is Walter Locke, his father, also an ASNE member.

In an open forum on Proportional Representation in Yonkers, N. Y., Oxie Reichler was assailed as "a dangerous man who has blackened the name of our city and blocked good government efforts of those with whom he disagrees." Undisturbed, the editor of the Herald Statesman continues his crusading with an article in the current National Municipal Review, "The Politician Hates P. R."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 287 July 1, 1947

Proceedings Due Soon

STILL on schedule, the printer promises that the Problems of Journalism (otherwise The Proceedings) will be mailed to members this month.

In spite of vast effort on the membership list, some inaccuracies remain; to reduce them still further members are urged to notify The Bulletin of changes in title or status so that the master list can be kept up to date.

Ernest Kirschten, St. Louis Star-Times, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Missouri Historical Society.

Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post, spent last month fishing in Canada.

F. A. Miller was honored by a dinner, July 1, on his 60th anniversary with the South Bend Tribune.

Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and Mrs. Barnett, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, June 24.

V. Y. Dallman, editor of the Illinois State Register (and Collector of Internal Revenue in Springfield), received the annual citation for outstanding contribution to journalism at MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 288 August 1, 1947

Globe-Democrat Editorials Timely As Front Page

• By LOUIS LACOSS
Editor, Editorial Page
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

WHEN Casper S. Yost was editor of the Globe-Democrat's editorial page, the timeliness of editorials rarely concerned him. It was his obvious belief that issues and problems and news developments were to be thoroughly studied and thought out before he made editorial comment. In the face of competition which editorially was on top of the news consistently, this policy tended to give the impression that the Globe-Democrat didn't make up its mind until it read what the Post-Dispatch and Star-Times had to say. That Mr. Yost was not at all concerned with what either newspaper thought or said, did not alter the fact that frequently we were editorializing on a parade that had passed several days previously.

I believe an editorial, with necessary exceptions, should be as timely as the front page, and such has been the policy since I succeeded Mr. Yost after his death in 1941. The danger is, of course, that snap judgments can place a fellow well out on a limb when the news story is developed more fully. But I believe this is a risk that must be taken. Most important stories are against a background with which the writer is

THE QUESTION

How currently should editorials relate to the front page of the same day?

C. Sylvester Green, Editor
Durham Morning Herald

familiar. His policy has already been established. Those stories which appear without warning can be handled as they come, perhaps with fingers crossed.

This does not mean that one must rush into print without the necessary analysis of the subject at hand, simply to indicate that his editorial page is on its toes. But, in the main, I consider editorial timeliness a virtue that should be cultivated.

I have mentioned Mr. Yost's opposite view because many members will remember him as the Society's first president, and because our page, past and present, illustrates the two approaches to a controversial policy.



RICHARD W. CLARKE, New York Daily News, last month appointed Resolutions Chairman by President Howard, tells what he believes should be done about resolutions at the 1948 convention. (Story on page 2.)

IT ALL depends on what material is available at the time to illuminate the complex issue, but certainly our leaning is toward editorial discussion on the day the news reaches the first page.

CHARLES MERZ, Editor,
The New York Times

Slavish Adherence To Speed Decried By Alabama Editor

• By McCLELLAN VAN DER VEER,
Chief Editorial Writer,
Birmingham News and Age-Herald

THE EDITORIAL page should be related as immediately as is feasible to the front page — and important news inside the paper (there's a lot of it; often deeply significant subjects are to be found there.) There should be no slavish adherence to mere speed, however.

When a big story breaks — or a significant fresh turn comes in an old story — it seems to me that comment on it as soon as possible will have a better chance of being read and of being useful than later. Interest is likely to be higher. The reader is likely to know more about what is being discussed. But there should be no automatic following of this rule when an editorial writer does not feel reasonably well prepared for comment. Often new stories do break about which the editor may have little information, no mature opinions. A perfunctory comment is never worthwhile unless it becomes imperative to the filling of space. There should be no such imperative these days.

Though prompt editorial comment is often highly desirable, there should be no fear of delay, or of going back to a subject. Most major themes are old themes, subject to re-attack. Many subjects can well be written about again and again — if each time something can be added.

If, for any reason, an editorial is delayed — as in the case of a very complex matter or a subject that did not seem so urgently to require immediate treatment — it should not be forgotten or ignored simply for that reason. If an editor is lax in that way, his editorial columns are likely to be

much more incomplete than they should be.

It is a good idea to think of the production of editorials in terms of each day, each week, each month, each year, in each period trying to do as timely and as well rounded a job as possible.

12 Resignations

Due To Ineligibility

TWELVE resignations, all due to ineligibility, have been received and accepted by Secretary Dwight Young since his last report on membership.

Harry T. Saylor, who had been editor of the Philadelphia Record, writes that his present plans do not include a return to newspaper work in any capacity.

Retired from The Hartford Courant, George B. Armstead keeps busy speaking and writing on public affairs.

Stepping up in the Brush-Moore organization, Joseph K. Vodrey, now general manager, and Roy Moore, president, no longer qualify for ASNE membership.

Others who were editors when they joined the Society but are now ineligible due to their present newspaper status are:

Robert Choate, publisher, The Boston Herald-Traveler.

Gardner Cowles, Jr., president, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

James E. Dowd, general manager, The Charlotte News.

Ward A. Neff, president, Drovers Journal Publishing Company.

E. E. Soules, business manager, Peoria Newspapers.

Two who have resigned because they are no longer in newspaper work are Dowsley Clark, formerly Toledo Blade; and B. B. Lynch, Phoenix Republic-Gazette.

Clement B. Hallam, executive editor of the Wilmington Morning News and Journal-Every Evening, retired June 30 after 53 years in newspaper work. Beginning as a printer's apprentice, he became a reporter on the Morning News in 1896, for many years covering the legislature for that newspaper and later for the Evening Journal of which he was a part owner. City editor of The Journal when it was sold and merged with the Every Evening, he was made managing editor of the combined papers, and had been executive editor since 1936.

THOSE RESOLUTIONS DEBATES

Richard W. Clarke, New Committee Chairman, Hopes To Save Time By Having Drafts Made Available To Members Earlier

"WHAT do you think of resolutions?" we asked Richard W. Clarke, the 1947-48 chairman. "Is their primary purpose to strengthen our own souls, or impress the public, and do they? Also what about the handling of them? There's an annual hue and cry that something ought to be done, but nothing ever is. What's your solution?"

Mr. Clarke, Executive Editor of the New York News, and an ASNE member of several years' standing who this year heads a committee for the first time, reflected and replied:

"I have had no great experience with the resolutions problem in the ASNE but I did feel a great deal of time was wasted last April in discussion from the floor of the draft offered by the Committee. Some of this could have been saved, I believe, if the draft had been made available to the membership earlier — Friday afternoon or evening. If that had been done, some informal discussion among members would have taken place before the Saturday meeting, and questions which later were put from the floor might have been eliminated.

"I think resolutions should be as short as possible, and the language so simple that the general public will be in no doubt of its meaning. We should not lay ourselves open to the criticism made by Mr. Ferguson in 1944.

"It is my understanding that resolutions are intended as a sort of statement of policy for the organization. Such a statement by the ASNE is bound to get considerable publicity and should be designed for public rather than membership consumption. After three or four days of close association, it is not likely that any member of the Society will be uncertain how his fellows feel on subjects of major interest."

★ ★ ★

"WE GET into the habit of writing in editorialese, which is a language apart from ordinary speech, with more regard for sonorous quality than for meaning and sense. The lads who prepare the resolutions ought always to be told to phrase them as if the authors were personally paying

cable tolls on them from New Delhi. Then the contents would be forceful and to the point." — MELVILLE F. FERGUSON, Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, in the June 1944 ASNE Bulletin.

Reference Books Needed In Bavaria

WANTED: Reference books for Bavarian newspaper offices.

The appeal comes from Ernest J. Cramer, Information Control Division of the Office of Military Government for Bavaria, backed up by Virginus Dabney of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, who talked with Mr. Cramer when he was in this country recently.

Editors and publishers in Germany are working under incredible difficulties, Mr. Cramer says in a letter to The Bulletin. Their task of bringing the truth to the people is greater than we here realize "because the Germans are not used to finding the truth in their papers." They are hampered by shortage of newspaper, trouble in repairing bomb-blasted plants and other worries about which American editors can do nothing. But, he adds, German newspapermen are lacking something else without which a journalist can hardly operate—reference books.

If ASNE members can spare any surplus books, from information bulletins to encyclopedias, they would be a tremendous help in establishing a democratic press in Bavaria, Mr. Cramer says.

Mr. Dabney attests the thorough screening given German newspapermen before they are licensed.

"I met some of them on my recent trip to Germany," he says, "and they had strong anti-Nazi records. Consequently it seems to me that this is a group inside Germany which we American editors can well afford to help. Any little aid which we are able to provide will give them courage to fight against the Nazi philosophy."

Books may be sent parcel post rate to Ernest J. Cramer, Information Control Division, Office of Military Government for Bavaria, APO 407, c/o Postmaster, New York City.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones Answers Walters On Accreditation

• By JENKIN LLOYD JONES
Editor, The Tulsa Tribune

IN THE JULY 5 issue of Editor & Publisher I find an account of a speech by our fellow ASNE member, Basil L. Walters, before the American Society of Journalism School Administrators in Chicago.

Stuffy fears that there are grave dangers in the ASNE's plan to accredit journalism schools according to a standard of excellence set up by the Society. He fears a "bureaucratic monopoly" effectively putting the stamp of approval or disapproval on the man or woman who wants to write.

Denying that journalism can be compared with the professions of medicine and law, Stuffy apparently sees no reason why journalism schools have to be accredited by any outside agency of newspapermen.

"The reason I fear the trend which I think is developing toward trying to establish writing as a licensed profession," he adds, "is that I think the very future of this nation is tied up with man's right to write and publish and distribute as he pleases."

What did Stuffy have to drink at that convention? Who dealt him up that Blue Moon of gin, vinegar, bitters, happy dust and a maraschino cherry? For, unless I'm drinking the wrong stuff myself, I see no connection between Stuffy's horrendous forecast of a straight-jacketed writing profession and the simple effort by the ASNE to improve the standards of journalism teaching.

Stuffy is right in asserting that journalism is not comparable to law or medicine. But the hopeful kid who signs up for a journalism course is risking precious years of his youth and spending good solid dollars just like a youngster going into any other professional school. If the journalism school is a fraud, if its professors are incompetent, if it wastes the student's time in courses of no value then no service has been performed for either the student or the profession.

"All over America innocent kids are being led from quagmire to morass by self-appointed journalism professors . . . It is a cruel joke upon the youngsters . . . and upon the editors who may some day have to reorient these kids in the realities of our business."

—J.L.J.

It is true that the medical school that has a faculty of horse doctors instead of physicians is a menace to the health of the general public, and should therefore be outlawed. But the law school that turns out ill-equipped lawyers cheats only the students and their future clients. If Stuffy agrees that there should be a standard for accrediting law schools why shouldn't there be similar standards for journalism schools?

I agree totally with Stuffy that journalism, unlike law, should remain an open profession. No budding newspaperman should be required to pass a state board examination before applying for a job. The profession should be open to any kid, whether he has gone to the worst journalism school in America, to no journalism school, or to no school at all. But I do not remember when the ASNE suggested that journalists should be licensed, or that journalism schools that do not meet ASNE standards should be compelled by law to close.

All the ASNE is trying to do, as I understand it, is to put a stamp of approval on those journalism schools which, in the opinion of experienced newspaper executives, are doing the best job

in fitting their students for newspaper work. That is a positive service to students, newspapers, and the press-reading public. It prohibits no one from hiring anyone. It damns no individuals. It merely seeks to raise a standard.

And, God knows, the standard ought to be raised. I know of one celebrated journalism school in a large university, the dean of which was under the impression that the New York Times had the largest circulation in the United States. I dropped in to a lecture at another that was so puerile and full of technical misinformation that I made an ass of myself by getting up and correcting the professor.

The fact is that journalism has been made an educational fetish in our high schools and colleges in the past 20 years. All over America innocent kids are being led from quagmire to morass by self-appointed journalism professors who can't tell a pica from a puka-puka. It is a cruel joke upon the youngsters. And it is a cruel joke upon the patient city editors and desk-men who may some day have to reorient these kinds in the realities of our business.

The ASNE program, as I see it, is sound, constructive and woefully overdue. The Society is certainly within its rights in pointing an approving finger at those schools which are trying to do a conscientious journalism job. I know of no gentler way of discouraging the widespread fakery that plainly exists.

F. A. Miller Honored

MORE THAN 300 admirers of F. A. Miller celebrated his 60th anniversary with The Tribune at a banquet, July 2. They included employees, government officials and ASNE members from near and far. A page of letters in The Tribune, from guests who were unable to attend, testified to the high place Mr. Miller holds in the hearts of his fellowmen. Said Mr. Miller, "I have more friends than I have ever known."



JENKIN LLOYD JONES

EDITORS CONSIDER PULITZER JURY SYSTEM IMPERFECT

TOM WALLACE,
The Louisville Times

AS LONG as ASNE devotes times to the job of being the tail that cannot wag the dog it will waste time. Columbia University will not be, and should not be, wagged.

ASNE could have its own means of recognizing good work. It need not give away gold, although it could do so should it prefer that metal to bronze. The Victoria Cross is valued, not for the metal. The Tres Bien at the Sorbonne, no metal, is valued. Why should the American Society of Newspaper Editors play a poorer part than second fiddle?

Years ago an ASNE jury gave The Louisville Times the meritorious service award unanimously, when it had whipped Samuel Insull, then commonly rated as something between a great developer and a demigod, later a sojourner in Athens. Higher ups turned down the jury and gave the award to another paper. Columbia did then what it will, and should, do always. It acted on its own judgment.

Later, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of ASNE in the University Club of Chicago Dr. Ackerman requested us to act in advisory capacity as to awards in Latin America and the United States of the Maria Moors Cabot gold medals. His suggestion was adopted. On thinking the matter over I expressed the opinion that ASNE hardly would undertake independent thorough investigation of the quality of services of editors of the whole hemisphere to the cause of Hemispheric solidarity which, to me, was and is, of highest importance, and that the University would, and would have to, make the decisions most of the time or all of the time. The Board reconsidered its action and reversed its decision. A good many years afterward Dr. Ackerman told me neither he nor the donor of the medals had ever understood what seemed unwillingness of ASNE to cooperate with the university in so good a cause. I made to him the explanation I have just made. I still think the donor, the University and ASNE beneficiaries of reversal of the Board's decision.

When some years later I received one of the Maria Moors Cabot medals I did not feel that the honor would have been increased by any advice an ASNE jury could have given. The University's decision was good enough for me. And I am sure the paper which received the award the ASNE jury tried to give to The Louisville Times didn't think the honor tarnished by the jury's view, if it knew about the jury decision, and I assume it did know about it.

W. G. VORPE,
Cleveland Plain Dealer

MY ANSWER, on Pulitzer juries, is definitely in the affirmative, notwithstanding the fact I did not agree with the awards last year, and felt in some respect the suggestions of the editors were largely either overlooked, or overruled. This, in my opinion, shouldn't change our attitude as editors. If Dean Ackerman wants the Society's assistance in 1948, it is my opinion he should have it.

I agree with Mr. Haskell of the Kansas City Star that no Advisory Committee can do better work than with its screening representing the Society of Editors. Whether or not the recommendations that are passed on are accepted shouldn't enter into the matter in any way, except that the Society has a perfect right to criticize the judgment as it sees fit. I am inclined to agree with our friend Kirchhofer of Buffalo, that the system of making these awards might be improved considerably. But until the system is corrected the Society, and the editors who make it up, can't afford to entirely ignore the situation.

J. A. LESLIE, Jr.,
Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

THE FACT that the Advisory Board rejected or disregarded the choices of some of the Pulitzer juries does not, in my opinion, suggest that the Society's contribution was of no value. The ASNE cooperation should continue, I think, at least until there is more evidence than from one trial that the service is not of value.

JOHN S. KNIGHT,
Knight Newspapers

MY OWN view is that the Pulitzer Prize committees appointed by Wilbur Forrest were of invaluable assistance to members of the Advisory Board of the Columbia School of Journalism.

That their conclusions were not accepted in full by the Advisory Committee in no way reflects upon the quality of their work.

It is but natural that editors should disagree but since the final decision must be made by the Advisory Board, certainly no editor should feel affronted by the fact that his personal choices for Pulitzer awards were not completely endorsed.

There is a precedent for situations of this sort as the Advisory Board frequently differs with the professional juries who pass upon plays, novels and biographies.

By all means, let President Howard follow the system inaugurated last year by Wilbur Forrest.

LLOYD M. FELMLY,
Newark Evening News

I BELIEVE we should continue to cooperate in the Pulitzer awards. It seems to me that our influence ought to be good rather than otherwise.

JAMES KERNEY, Jr.,
Trenton Times Newspapers

IF THE ASNE doesn't furnish Pulitzer jurors the job will be done by people who don't know what it's all about. On the other hand, there is no reason why the ASNE jurors should be dusted off by the Pulitzer advisory committee every year.

I can see no reason why the ASNE should not furnish Pulitzer jurors who would announce five nominations in each category for each of the prizes. Then if the Pulitzer Advisory Committee chose to go off half cocked, the ASNE jurors would be on public record with their nominations.

There may be some complaint about the ASNE jurors announcing their nominations. But the Pulitzer prize system doesn't have to be as secret as the Knights of the White Shirt Tail. It wouldn't hurt to have a little more fresh air in the Pulitzer selections.

BUT MAJORITY FAVORS CONTINUING COOPERATION

SEVELLON BROWN
Providence Journal & Bulletin

AS A MEMBER of the Advisory Board, I hope the ASNE will continue to cooperate through the jury system with the Pulitzer awards.

I served as a member of a jury before I became a member of the Advisory Board. Then the jury system was given up. So I have seen the Board function both with and without jury advice. I am convinced that the jury system helps to make these awards the influence for better standards in journalism that they are intended to be. To have these juries named by the ASNE seems to me a far better practice than the abandoned one of years back.

The success of this system should not be based upon a single year's performance nor upon the record of the Advisory Board in accepting or overturning jury recommendations. It should be borne in mind that these awards are not and should not be, in most instances, unanimous verdicts. There are divisions of opinion within the Board, of course. There should be differences of opinion between the Board and juries.

The difficulties of surveys as a basis for awards for editorial writing, spot reporting, public service, or any of the other categories of the journalism prizes are manifest. The need of screening and of advice to the Advisory Board seems to me too obvious to be questioned. I hope the ASNE will continue this valuable cooperation.

JAMES A. STUART
The Indianapolis Star

ONLY awards in muscle competition can be made with a degree of precision, and they sometimes await study of a photo finish. Measuring the cultural achievements of man is something else. Here the public becomes the final jury, with every juror having different qualifications (if any) to evaluate the contest.

There never has been and never will be unanimous acceptance of any Pulitzer award. From this distance it would seem the Advisory Committee operates fairly under the rules. Members of the

ASNE should go on giving service as jurors, just as they will go on receiving some of the awards and hoping for more. The great American pastime of griping must not be abridged.

EDWIN B. WILSON
The Brooklyn Eagle

IT IS a fine constructive service for ASNE to cooperate by having some of its members named to act as Pulitzer judges. But they should have definite power and specific responsibility. Otherwise ASNE must share the criticism for mistakes for which it was not responsible.

STUART H. PERRY
Adrian Telegram

AS A MEMBER of the Advisory Board of the Columbia School of Journalism I was greatly interested in the opinions expressed by eight editors on ASNE juries in the July Bulletin. The opinions varied, which is natural because the problem is not free from difficulty, but I was glad to see that the majority of the writers favor a continuation of the present practice.

Of course it is unfortunate when the Board does not accept a conclusion reached by a jury after earnest and unbiased consideration. But that happens with the recommendations of juries on awards for poetry, history, drama and other categories, as well as recommendations by juries in journalism. In fact that outcome is inescapable, unless the Board should give full and final authority to the juries. The Board, however, could not thus abandon any authority conferred upon it, and a duty imposed upon it, under the provisions of the Pulitzer trust. Yet there must be juries, because the volume of material submitted is so great that the Board could not possibly examine it all.

The awards in journalism are very important—the most important of any category, in my opinion—and the screening and judging should be done by capable journalists. For that work I can think of no method half so good as the selection of juries by the ASNE. Otherwise the only re-

course would be to have the work done by students in journalism, or by various individuals whose services might be obtained, which would be much less satisfactory.

So I earnestly hope that the ASNE will continue to give what I consider to be invaluable cooperation—a cooperation which is peculiarly appropriate for such an organization, and the most effective and satisfying that any organization can give. In behalf of the Board I may add that it is deeply appreciated.

JOSEPH AGOR,
Shamokin News-Dispatch

I SHARE with some other members of ASNE a natural resentment over the treatment accorded our jurors in the matter of the Pulitzer award judging. However, I'm for continued participation, at least to a point where there is definite determination whether we, as editors, carry any weight in the judging, or are just being "noticed" out of courtesy.

JOHN P. HARRIS,
Hutchinson News and Herald

NO, on Pulitzer cooperation as outside proper ASNE field of duty.

J. R. BENHAM,
Terre Haute Star

WITHOUT having heard anything from the viewpoint of the Advisory Board, it seems to me that ASNE can do nothing but continue to cooperate as jurors in selecting Pulitzer prize material. I can appreciate that the trend of events this year might be irking but I was not aware that newspaper editors ever were very sensitive under such condition. Let's continue to serve if merely as fulfillment of an obligation in forwarding newspaper excellence. We might sometime convert dissident Board members.

FRANK AHLGREN,
Memphis Commercial Appeal

I CAN understand the chagrin of some of the ASNE jury when their selected were passed up by the Pulitzer judges. The jurors represented some of the best

judgment on affairs editorial in the business.

However, even the reading public has a way of crossing up editors in their reception of our efforts. It is a healthy thing. I did not agree with some of the Pulitzer selections, but I do not for a moment challenge the sincerity of the judges. I was reminded that we are shooting at a shifting target every day in this business, and we don't always register.

In net, I believe that the ASNE should continue to provide juries for the Pulitzer committee unless or until there is strong evidence that the recommendations are being dealt with capriciously. Inasmuch as the personnel of the Pulitzer Advisory Board represents some of the outstanding men in the daily newspaper publishing business I seriously doubt that such a situation would come about.

CARL E. LINDSTROM The Hartford Times

A MINISTER'S son, Carl E. Lindstrom endured quite a bit of gyping in his childhood. He was born in the upper peninsula of Michigan in 1896, grew up in Springfield, Mass., and Paxton, Ill., attended Beloit College in Wisconsin and got his first newspaper job on the Dayton Democrat. He



worked on the Beloit Daily News, The New York Evening Sun and the Waterbury Republican before going to The Hartford Times 30 years ago.

Vacillating between music and news writing he finally combined the two by doing music criticism for The Times, which worked fairly well in the half dozen years he was assistant managing editor. Since last December, he confesses, he's found that being managing editor is a full-time job.

Annual Proceedings Published

THE PROCEEDINGS has been mailed. Any member who has not received his copy, please notify Secretary Dwight Young, Dayton Journal-Herald.

Meet Some New ASNE Members

CHARLES S. RYCKMAN San Francisco Call-Bulletin

AN EDITORIAL writer for the Chicago Herald-Examiner in 1936, and later on the New York Journal-American and the San Francisco Examiner and The Call-Bulletin, Charles S. Ryckman now writes national editorials for Hearst morning newspapers, also published in evenings where the chain has no morning newspapers.

A Coloradan, born July 11, 1898 in Fort Collins and educated there, Mr. Ryckman got his first job as a reporter on the Fort Collins Courier. That was in 1920, after he had done his wartime stint in the Navy.

The same year he went to the Fremont (Neb.) Tribune, remaining until 1936, successfully as reporter, managing editor and editor. While he was on The Tribune, in 1931, he won a Pulitzer prize for an editorial entitled, "The Gentleman from Nebraska," based on the career of Senator Norris.

San Francisco has been Mr. Ryckman's home for many years, with headquarters in the office of The Call Bulletin.

BEN B. JOHNSTON Richmond Times-Dispatch

NAME almost any part of the South and Ben B. Johnston has lived there at some time since he was born in Chattanooga, June 29, 1894.

He attended school in Meridian, Miss., was graduated from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, returned to Meridian for his first job on The Dispatch, shuttled back to Tuscaloosa to work on The News, was on the Shreveport Times when World War I intervened. He came out of it a Captain of Infantry, and from 1919 to 1937 was on the Macon Telegraph or The News in various capacities, managing edi-

tor of The Telegraph when he left to join the staff of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Made acting managing editor in 1942, he has been managing editor since December 1945.

In Macon, Mr. Johnston met and married Janet Ross. They have two children, Ben B., Jr. 21 and Janet, 16.

HOKE WELCH Miami Daily News

ALTHOUGH only 37 years old, Hoke Welch, managing editor of The Miami Daily News, will have been 20 years in newspaper work the third of next month.



Atlantan by birth, he served as prep school sports reporter for the old Atlanta Georgian, graduating to boxing and wrestling, and covering the Atlanta "Crackers" in the Southern League. In 1932 he became picture editor, later make-up and news editor until in 1939, the Georgian ceased publication. A month later he was working as Sunday editor of the Atlanta Journal.

That summer Mr. Welch made his first visit to Miami with his wife, the former Alma Florence Howard of Waverly Hall, Ga., and their two children, Jimmy, now 15, and Sandra, ten. They liked the city so much (even during the supposedly hot summer) that they determined if they ever moved from Atlanta it would be to Miami. The opportunity came a year later, when he was offered the news editorship of another Cox newspaper, The Miami Daily News. In 1941 he was named managing editor at the age of 31.

Mr. Welch is a gentleman farmer. He has an eight by ten foot gardening plot at his Coral Gables home. He plants many things. Tomatoes come up.

He is a member of Miami Kiwanis Club, Country Club of Coral Gables and Sigma Delta Chi.

Carroll Binder Found Japanese Press In A Bewildering State of Confusion

In a convention talk, Mr. Binder covered Japan's economic problems. In response to a Bulletin request he reports here on the Japanese press.

• By CARROLL BINDER,
Editorial Editor, Minneapolis Tribune

JAPAN'S major newspapers have had so many bosses in the last decade that frequently it has been difficult for those who produce as well as for those who read to know just who controls them.

At the beginning of the war the militarists forced the original owners to transfer the big newspapers to their staffs on favorable terms of purchase. The militarists thought the staffs would whoop up the war effort more enthusiastically under such an arrangement.

When Japan lost the war the men who had run the big newspapers had to step out along with the purged owners and directors of other major enterprises.

Since then the unpurged employees have operated the papers under the supervision of SCAP, as the occupation headed by General MacArthur is commonly designated. SCAP is more interested in seeing that the newspapers publish nothing derogatory to SCAP policies or the Allied powers than in who owns or controls a particular newspaper.

SCAP's efforts to foster a strong trade union movement as part of the democratizing of feudalistic Japan have had strong repercussions in the newspapers along with other Japanese enterprises.

Freed of the control of the original owners, the subsequent managers, the militarists and the government, the staffs of the newspapers have engaged in a fierce intramural contest for power over policy and resources which is still going on.

The Japanese who sought to explain how things stood to eight fellow American newspaper editors and me during our recent visit to Japan disagreed in their accounts of how things stand. It was clear, however, that the Japanese newspapers needed nothing so much as editors and publishers

able and willing to assume responsibility and authority.

At the time of our visit, cafeteria workers, janitors and circulation employees had as much voice as members of the editorial staff in the selection of editors and the determination of editorial policy of a paper with a circulation in excess of three million.

The result was a bewildering shift in policy and emphasis from day to day. What the paper said reflected what the dominant element of the union impressed on the fellow who sat in the editor's seat that day or what the SCAP representative — often a young Nisei with perhaps only a vague idea of what SCAP had in mind — permitted to be said.

We were told that the Communists dominated the policy of Asahi which publishes in three major Japanese cities and has a circulation of 3,423,000. Since then the majority stockholder in Asahi who made those charges has retracted them. The employee board of directors of Asahi in turn has admitted "its carelessness in handling editorials" was "partly responsible for giving the impression" of communist domination. The employee directors promised to follow a "strictly impartial editorial policy"; the Asahi union promised to withdraw from the radical CIO to establish its independence; and the majority stockholder promised not to picture the union as a menace to a free press.

You have to be acquainted with the Orient to follow these odd concessions and affirmations as well as a series of curious maneuvers within the All-Japan Newspapers and Radio Workers union and the CIO which Miles Vaughn of the UP says represent a marked decline in extreme leftist influence in the Japanese press.

An American publisher or editor would find intolerable the degree of employee control over both policy and assets still obtaining on the big Japanese newspapers.

Ordinarily these papers consist of one sheet about the size of an American newspaper page. Due to print paper shortage, they never exceed two sheets or four pages.

Yomiuri has 900 editorial em-



CARROLL BINDER

ployees to fill its two pages. Asahi has about the same number. Asahi's total staff is 6,428.

An editorial employee on a Japanese newspaper has to fight to find room to work as well as space for what he writes in the restricted editorial columns.

Why don't they fire superfluous employees? The employee dominated managements don't want to and couldn't if they wanted to except when there is a bitter ideological struggle such as took place on Yomiuri last year. Most employees have seniority rights dating from the days when these prosperous papers had large foreign staffs and hosts of correspondents with Japan's far-flung armed forces. A newspaper job carries with it valuable privileges such as an opportunity to buy food and other scarce articles at low cost as well as pay and influence.

The papers had huge assets when the employees began running them. Their income remains large. Both are being used up, but a lot of people are getting their living out of them. Meantime the original owners have to sell clothing and heirlooms to get enough to eat at present-day prices.

The need for somebody whom SCAP and the Japanese government can hold responsible may further diminish employee control, perhaps even enable owners who have never lost touch with the papers to make a come-back.

Meantime the Japanese buy 19 million copies a day and make what they can out of what is printed in them.

Editors Don't Agree (They Never Do) On Limiting Tickets For Annual Banquet

IT'S ALMOST an even three-way split on what to do about banquet tickets. Answers to the question in last month's Bulletin came from members who last April took from two tickets to a full table, ones who sat up front and ones who sat behind posts, and some who could—or couldn't—hear, regardless of location.

Seven favor limiting tickets to two, among them Barry Bingham, Louisville Courier-Journal and Times (good table at the last banquet), who writes:

"The banquet is a fine and valuable occasion, marred only by the unwieldy size of the crowd. To those who sit in the second room, the whole interest of the proceedings is almost destroyed by the noise and confusion. I believe most members would readily agree to limit themselves to two tickets, so they and their guests could really enjoy the speeches in the Presidential Room."

To L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, the big banquet is "too much like Coney Island." He believes we gain little in prestige or otherwise by opening the doors to everyone.

Concurring were J. A. Leslie, Jr., Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch; T. R. Waring, Jr., Charleston News and Courier; Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune; William O. Dapping, Auburn Citizen-Advertiser; and Frank Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial Appeal. Mr. Ahlgren adds, "I have had good and bad seatings; so this is not a gripe. I feel that our guest speaker and attentive listeners should be spared the confusion that a crowd overflowing into other rooms usually brings about."

Five members vote for a limit of four.

Says Fritz Updike, Rome Sentinel: "The banquet, to me, is too important an affair to limit attendance severely. Sure, I had the table by the door this year but it was my fault. I had my wife and son with me and if limited to two tickets think of the problem I would have had. Why not try limiting attendance to four tickets per member? You'll always have a banquet problem; so does baseball with world series tickets.

The answer is the Society is just too good an attraction on banquet night."

Harold B. Johnson, Watertown Times (thoroughly hidden behind a post far in the rear last April): "When the crowd got settled down, it all worked out all right. People were not uncomfortable and we were able to hear. I feel it is unfortunate when a member takes a dozen or more persons to the party but a limit of four tickets would not be unusual."

Sharing the same view are Lewis R. Hovey, Beverly Evening Times; Frederick J. Sullens, Jackson Daily News, who took a party of 12 this year but says "four to six should be sufficient"; and John L. Morrison, Greenville Record-Argus.

Mr. Morrison, incidentally, is the father of the first-come first-served system. He staged a peoples' rebellion in the days when a full table meant a front table and anyone who took a pair of tickets automatically went to the rear.

Five members prefer the present arrangement, although they are aware of the problem it creates. Fred C. Christopherson, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, tells why:

"These banquets have been happy affairs despite the fact that the crowds have been large. As a member, I have welcomed this opportunity to repay some courtesies to Washington friends by inviting them to an event they could not otherwise attend.

"The Statler's loud speaker system is excellent and speeches can be heard clearly in both rooms. The restlessness evidenced this year may have been due to the fact that the banquet program was too long."

Louis A. Weil, Port Huron Times-Herald, also is satisfied with the present arrangement.

J. Vance, New Britain Herald, says, "The opportunity to entertain friends as well as politicians from our area is welcome to most of us. I would feel reluctant to give up the privilege, which I usually exercise, of getting several seats." However, he adds philosophically, "If there isn't room, what can do you but limit

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

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tickets—to one guest if necessary?"

W. W. Ward, Beaumont Journal, thinks it's fine for members to have the privilege of inviting Washington friends and Washington staffs. He'd concede a limit of four, if necessary, but suggests "leaving it as is and asking members to be as lenient as possible, due to space scarcity."

Realizing limitation may be necessary, but hoping it won't be, and definitely against using only one room, C. C. Hemenway, Hartford Times, says, "Continue the present system, with the proviso that members and their wives must be cared for first."

Two of the members quoted, Mr. Dapping and Mr. Updike, suggested a similar arrangement—a limit on tickets, after which members wishing additional tickets be listed in order of application for any excess tickets not purchased by a given date.

On the fence is Houston Harte, San Angelo Standard-Times, who says that the rear dais provided an unobstructed view though. "Oveta was the only one who looked good from where I sat and I had to draw on my memory for that." While he is not opposed to restricting tickets, he adds, "I hope we will always have a big crowd such as last year but I judge business conditions will take care of that eventually."

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OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 289

September 1, 1947

MEMBERSHIP LIMIT SUGGESTED

A. M. Piper, Committee Chairman, Believes, However Society Should Be Represented in Every City Over 50,000

"AS Membership Chairman," we asked A. M. Piper, editor of The Council Bluffs Nonpareil, "how do you feel about the Society's future growth? And what are your plans for the year?"

His reply: "The American Society of Newspaper Editors has what appeals to me as an ideal organization. I should very much regret to see it embark on a campaign of expansion."

"I feel the Society can render the best service if its membership is kept at approximately the present size. It might be a good idea to set a top limit of 500."

"However, I think an effort should be made to secure at least one member from every city of over 50,000. Of course, there will always be some eligible papers from which it will be impossible to secure satisfactory members."

"I also believe we ought to have at least one or two members from every state, even though there is no city of 50,000 in the state. Perhaps such members should be elected in addition to the five which may be elected each year from cities of less than 50,000."

"There are many excellent papers in cities under 50,000 whose editors would appreciate membership in the Society. It

might be advisable to increase the number who may be elected from the smaller cities to ten a year—for a period of say five years.

"In order to obtain real benefit from membership in the Society and contribute anything worthwhile to the Society, a member must attend the annual conventions. In my opinion, those who fail to do so should be dropped if they miss two consecutive meetings, and fail to show up at the third. Under the present rule they are not dropped until after they miss three conventions."

(Mr. Piper refers to an amendment to the by-laws adopted in 1944; however it applies only to members elected after October 1, 1943, and as there was no meeting in 1945, it is not effective until after the next convention.)

"I shall probably have other, and perhaps different, ideas about membership in the Society at the end of my term," he concludes, "but these are my present opinions."

The new membership chairman joined ASNE seven years ago and has missed only one convention. He has taken an active part in affairs of the Society and this year for the first time has been appointed to a committee chairmanship.

APPLICATIONS for membership should be submitted to the chairman, A. M. Piper, editor of The Council Bluffs Nonpareil, before October 1 if they are to be voted on by the Board at its fall meeting.

DIRECTORS WILL MEET IN CLEVELAND OCT. 25

FOR THE first time in five years, the Board of Directors will meet outside Washington. An invitation to Cleveland, extended by President Howard, met with favor. The directors will convene there October 25 and 26.

As the semi-annual meeting is more leisurely than the spring meeting, the directors have time for considering membership suggestions on any phase of the Society's activities. Communications may be addressed to Mr. Howard or to Secretary Dwight Young, Dayton Journal-Herald.

Ethical Problem

I SUPPOSE I'm as hard-boiled about suppressing news as any other editor. On a recent night we printed items about a raid on our press club (punchboards, of all things) and an employee's brother being arrested. But I like to recall an item that did not appear in The Enquirer ten years ago.

A chap was arrested with another woman (not his wife) in his car early one morning for sassing a cop. Neither asked that the story be suppressed. I learned inadvertently the fellow's daughter was to be graduated from a university the same day he was due in police court.

The item didn't appear, and to this day he doesn't know I talked a reluctant city editor into 1) cutting the item to one paragraph and 2) then killing it entirely.

Tell me, did I do wrong by this girl? Am I a rank sentimentalist? Please relieve my conscience and query others.

E. M. Boyd, Managing Editor
Cincinnati Enquirer

SOCIETY HAS NO MEMBERS IN IDAHO, NEW HAMPSHIRE OR WYOMING

Alabama	10	Florida	13	Maine	2	Nevada	1	Oregon	5	Virginia	14
Arizona	2	Georgia	10	Maryland	6	New Hampshire	1	Pennsylvania	31	Washington	4
Arkansas	2	Illinois	17	Massachusetts	13	New Jersey	12	Rhode Island	3	W. Virginia	4
California	38	Indiana	14	Michigan	23	New Mexico	1	So. Carolina	5	Wisconsin	6
Colorado	2	Iowa	5	Minnesota	10	New York	55	So. Dakota	1	Wyoming	3
Connecticut	12	Kansas	8	Mississippi	3	No. Carolina	13	Tennessee	8		
Delaware	2	Kentucky	6	Missouri	13	No. Dakota	3	Texas	18		
D. of C.	13	Louisiana	8	Montana	1	Ohio	33	Utah	1		
				Nebraska	3	Oklahoma	6	Vermont	1		
										Total membership	444

ASNE Is Urged To Award Own Annual Prizes

• By MELVILLE F. FERGUSON, Editor
Philadelphia Bulletin

DISCUSSION in The Bulletin as to cooperation with Columbia in the matter of Pulitzer awards in the field of journalism next year, in view of the outcome of this year's recommendations, inspires me to a suggestion. I submit:

1. That the membership of ASNE is better qualified by training and experience to appraise journalistic effort than any other body.

2. Therefore ASNE should itself undertake the annual survey of outstanding newspaper performance, and not only select winners but provide suitable awards.

3. These awards should not necessarily parallel those made by the Pulitzer Foundation. The classes of competition should be carefully studied. The lines of some Pulitzer awards are a little obscure. Undoubtedly there should be an award for the best editorial, the best news story, the best cartoon—and, I think, for the best original photograph. The points that give weight to some Pulitzer selections are somewhat confused. The conditions relevant to ASNE awards should be clear cut—so much percentage weight to each factor.

4. No effort should be made to supplant the Pulitzer awards. I am proposing an independent undertaking which would, in time, I think, outrank Pulitzer in authority. It might well be that in some cases ASNE selections would duplicate Pulitzer's. No harm in that. Where choices differed, lively and wholesome discussion would be promoted.

5. The cost of this undertaking should be carefully calculated. This done, I would suggest:

(a) That to pro-rate it among members as an extra assessment would be unfair.

(b) That for this purpose only the membership be divided into three classes, on a circulation basis, with proportionate contributions by each class.

(c) That a complete plan be drafted and sent to each member with a referendum ballot: "Do

you approve this plan? Will you undertake to support it by an extra contribution of \$xx per year for a trial period of three years?" Let the outcome depend on a two-thirds (numerical) favorable majority.

★ ★ ★ ★

Another member has broached a similar suggestion but with the stipulation that there should be no cash prizes, on the theory that an ASNE honor would be valued above any amount of money.

The entire matter will be considered by the Board at its meeting next month.

★ ★ ★ ★

Says John S. Knight, a director and former president of the ASNE in his "Editor's Notebook" of the Detroit Free Press: "Some newspaper editors are still fuming because the Columbia University committee didn't accept all their nominations for Pulitzer awards. . . . Wonder if they feel the same way whenever a subscriber disagrees with an editorial?"

Now Let's See You Edit This Item Down, Mr. Jones

THERE'S a story behind "By Guess or by Guide?", Vincent Jones' convention talk reprinted in booklet form and fancy dress.

It began in 1945 when the Continuing Study published its survey of The Troy Record. Mr. Jones, executive editor of the Utica Observer-Dispatch, wrote Al Lehman, the Advertising Research Foundation's managing director, pointing out that the Study's release violated its own findings; too long, no pictures, full of technical terms. Mr. Jones edited the study down to a column, gave it the works in typography and art, printed it in the O-D one Sunday, and sent a tear sheet to Mr. Lehman showing him how it should have been done.

Not one to forget, when Mr. Lehman read an advance copy of Mr. Jones' convention talk, he wrote congratulating him and, knowing full well that The Proceedings would have no pictures or fancy typography, added slyly, "I hope the ASNE will print your speech in the style which you would use as a result of your study of the Continuing Study."

ASNE didn't; but Gannett Newspapers did, and sent copies to the ASNE membership—and Mr. Lehman.

Harry Ashmore Goes To Arkansas Gazette

HARRY S. ASHMORE last month resigned from the Charlotte News to become editor of the editorial page of the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock.

From the time he graduated from Clemson College in 1937, Mr. Ashmore has been attracting national attention. Starting as a reporter on the Greenville Piedmont, he toured "the deep North" to do a series on Tobacco Roads above the Mason-Dixon



line. Four years later he went to Harvard, the youngest Nieman Fellow ever selected. His studies interrupted by the war, he entered service as a second lieutenant, emerging in 1945 as a lieutenant-colonel, one of the youngest. He served overseas as Assistant Operations Officer for the 95th Division.

Following his discharge he became associate editor of The Charlotte News, and was appointed editor in April at the age of 30. He joined ASNE two years ago and appeared on the editorial page panel at the spring convention.

Two Resignations

SECRETARY Dwight Young reports these resignations:

Daniel Nicoll, associate publisher, Pittsburgh Post Gazette.

Robert T. Walsh, formerly of the Bayonne Times, now in publicity.

Says Oxie Reichler:

NEW YORK will have less public apathy and much more public intelligence about good government and P.R. when and if New York's newspapers begin to present a P.R. election as adequately and completely as they covered the Langley Collyer hermit yard or even the Kentucky Derby.—Oxie Reichler, Yonkers Herald Statesman, in the National Municipal Review, June, 1947.

HOW CAN NEWSPAPERS adapt themselves to radio's competition in news distribution?

When three members asked that question in The Bulletin some time ago, no one answered. Why not? Are other editors unconcerned with the problem, or are they concerned but don't know the answer? That question, addressed to several members, brought these replies.

• By WALTER S. ADAMS,
Managing Editor,
Asheville Citizen-Times

YOU ASK "What should newspapers do to meet the new competition in news distribution—the radio?"

Well, in our community of 85,000 people we have one newspaper plant (publishing a morning and an evening paper) and five radio stations. All five of these radio stations are broadcasting news energetically and at frequent intervals.

Are these five radio outfits beating us at our own game? The truth is our business was never better and papers never were in greater demand than they are today.

Have the radio people got all the brains, imagination, enterprise and resources? If they have then newspapers deserve to be licked.

There was a time when many newspapers made a lot of their news and editorial decisions on the basis of what their competing papers were doing. It is recognized now that only stupid newspapers let their competition make their decisions for them.

Should we allow our radio "competition" to regulate our decisions in editing our newspapers? For whom are we really working? For whom are we really working? While it may seem silly to ask such questions we do sometimes forget that all of our editorial efforts should be directed to serve our readers.

All right, then, let's quit worrying about the radio and start studying our readers, and how to serve them better. Most newspapers could stand a lot of improving, and in this fast-moving world we've got to keep making improvements. If we keep our eye on the ball (the reader, that is), our subscribers will keep their eyes on our newspapers.

In our town nobody has yet been able to figure how to listen to five radio stations at the same time. But when our newspaper goes into the home of Mr. and

Mrs. Reader it is there for the entire family, if, as and when they wish to turn to it for complete news, information, pictures, cartoons, inspiration, instruction, entertainment and relaxation.

These readers can check and double-check our paper at any time, and read the ads or not as they like. In short, our readers have the whole newspaper works at their service and pleasure—and they are their own program directors.

Is that bad? If it is, we know who is responsible. We are!

Radio stations are not guilty. Turn 'em free, sheriff!

★ ★ ★ ★

• By L. R. BLANCHARD,
General Executive Editor,
The Gannett Newspapers

SHOULD newspapers fear radio? Yes, up to a point which will make them stir their stumps and improve their product. No, if the question deals with radio as a competitor.

Late in '46 the two Rochester papers were strike-bound for three months. We "gave" our business to radio. We helped out by taking hours on the air attempting to apply newsroom techniques to broadcasting. The three stations strove mightily on their own to fill the newspapers' place. They extended news coverage, dipped into departments seldom touched upon before. They just didn't get anywhere although they picked up some advertising revenue—for the three months.

When the strike ended, back came the subscribers en masse. They were delighted with the familiar feel of newsprint and a chance to seek out the bits of information they wanted. They hadn't been able to separate wheat from chaff in hours of radio listening.

Radio has its field and the newspaper has its own. There's little sense in either's pretending it can handle the other's specialty.

As for transmission by air, that's another problem, but not of immediate concern.

• By CHARLES R. CORBIN,
Assistant Executive Editor,
Minneapolis Star and Tribune

EDITORS Parks, Winship and Christopherson, writing in The Bulletin several months ago, suggested a discussion of how newspapers are adapting themselves to radio competition in news distribution.

It seems to me that radio competition built a highly beneficial fire under us. A lot of us old-school editors were in a rut. Many of us used to get out mere news bulletins instead of newspapers. We preened ourselves if we beat the competition to the street with an extra carrying a laconic, one-paragraph bulletin which gave only the barest details about some important happening.

Radio can compete with that kind of news distribution but I do not think it can compete with real newspapering. An alert newspaper isn't satisfied these days with giving the news—it also tells what the news means. We can discount the dissemination of news by radio if our readers can depend upon us to tell them, unfailingly and in intelligible terms, what the news means.

Another way to meet radio news competition is to give our readers news that the radio stations don't or can't give, because of their limitations. We can develop material of our own. We are trying to do that here in Minneapolis. A reporter for the Minneapolis Tribune is covering county fairs throughout the state, writing stories that have much more than home-county appeal. Research work being carried on at the University of Minnesota is providing many highly interesting stories for both The Star and The Tribune. We have had several lately about unusual surgical cases.

In short, it seems to me that newspapers can best meet radio competition by taking the accent off the headlines and concentrating intensely on the body of the story.

News of ASNE Members

CALLS on the ASNE president as speech-maker continue. Mr. Howard's talk at the convention of the International Typographical Union in Cleveland, August 17, received an unusually good press. The following week he made a short talk on public health before the reunion of the Ohio Legislature. This month he will speak at the opening luncheon of the SNPA convention at Hot Springs, Ark.

Charles S. Stanton, who died July 31 in San Francisco, was a charter member of ASNE. As a cub on the New York World, his first important assignment was covering the death of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Later he was an editorial executive on The World, the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Examiner, the San Francisco Examiner and, from 1924 to 1927, part owner of the San Francisco Bulletin. At the time of his death he was 85.

Through the helpfulness of Louis LaCoss, editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, and E. Lansing Ray, president, the SNPA library filled out its set of ASNE Proceedings. The copy of the 1923 edition, which was missing, belonged to the late Casper Yost of The Globe-Democrat, founder of the Society, and has been presented to the southern library in his name. Walter Johnson, secretary-manager of SNPA, promises that if another copy turns up as a result of his search, he will seek permission to present it to ASNE, from whose archives that first edition is missing.

He was once appointed to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate and is generally regarded the leading citizen of his state. Editor of the same newspaper for 46 years, his editorials are famous for their wisdom, vision and human understanding. He has traveled widely abroad; knows and loves England, and is state chairman of The Newcomen Society of England in North America. (Notes gleaned from a sketch of the author in "I Give You: ARKANSAS" by J. N. Heiskell, editor of the Arkansas Gazette, a

booklet published by The Newcomen Society.)

Letters went to a dozen members last month asking for vacation snapshots for The Bulletin. In the absence of N. G. Henthorne, a member of the Tulsa World staff replied: "You would have an almost hopeless task trying to catch Mr. Henthorne at play. He sometimes has a slack period at the office, but that's when he catches up on meetings of the Park Board, of which he is president, or the Will Rogers Memorial Commission — he's chairman; or working on some city planning committee. His only relaxation is week-ending at his ranch near Locust Grove."

Don Scism, editor of the Evansville Courier, has been elected chairman of the Indiana Associated Press.

Harold W. Sanford, editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, talked 240 minutes in half a day recently. He made six 40-minute talks at the Wayne County Vocational Institute.

All hands in the Centralia Sentinel office, including the publisher, went to work when that city was the scene of last spring's mine disaster. A picture in the AP house organ shows Verne Joy at a typewriter in city room uniform — shirt sleeves.

H. R. Pinckard began his column in the Huntington (W. Va.) Herald-Advertiser in a burst of indignation over the local movie manager's asking for an editorial on Henry V., and offering to supply reviews from The New York Times and other big-time publications for reprint. Mr. Pinckard replied: "It may seem a little strange to you that we should even consider the possibility of differing with The New York Times. That such a contretemps will arise is hardly probable — since it would unquestionably reflect unfavorably upon our critical capacities — nevertheless it is a contingency which we dare not dismiss." So he took the free tickets — and devoted the rest of the column to lavish praise of the picture!

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7991.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(May 1 Through July 31)

BALANCE (May 1)	
Riggs National Bank...	\$ 5,672.29
U. S. Savings bonds.....	2,500.00
Troy Savings Bank.....	1,982.14
RECEIPTS	
Dues (419 members)....	10,475.00
Interest (gov't bonds)...	31.25
Interest (bank)	19.82
Bulletin subscriptions...	33.50
Proceedings sales	14.00
Miscellaneous	67.50
	20,795.50

DISBURSEMENTS	
Treasurer's bond	25.00
General office expenses of officers	225.48
Salaries, officers' secretaries	195.00
Bulletin expenses (including salary of Assistant Secretary)...	1,611.56
Proceedings (misc. expense)	16.33
Convention expenses paid during period....	1,042.88
	3,116.25

BALANCE (July 31) \$17,679.25

Dues had not been paid by 25 members, as of August 1.

At the suggestion of the treasurer, Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post, the financial statement will be published in The Bulletin at regular intervals.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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Trial and Error Method of Hiring Too Costly Now

By E. T. LEECH, Editor
The Pittsburgh Press

HIRING new staff members is about the most important job of an editor these days.

Perhaps it always was—but it wasn't so treated. Starting salaries were lower; it was easier to get rid of unsatisfactory employees, and therefore the trial-and-error system was less costly and more convenient than now.

In my early years in this business jobs were often filled on the spur of the moment. There was a vacancy; an applicant walked in and said he had worked on certain papers, and

with little or no investigation he was told to take off his coat and sit down.

Such things as higher salary levels, dismissal payments, restrictions on discharges and the necessity for better-informed writers all make it essential to take extreme precautions in employing a new staff member.

As for the process: We use a detailed and informative application form which contains information that gives a pretty fair picture of the applicant's education, family background and previous experience. It contains an agreement that the furnishing of false information will be grounds for subsequent discharge.

In all cases we interview the applicant personally—paying his or her expenses for a trip to

ETHICAL PROBLEM—AN ANSWER AND WARNING

E. M. BOYD, managing editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer, in the September ASNE Bulletin, asks "if I did wrong by this girl?" in killing a police story about the arrest of her father.

Mr. Boyd cites what might be considered an "extenuating circumstance" in that the story broke on the day the girl was to graduate from the university.

I think the question Boyd should have asked is "Did I do right by the father?" Will the fact that the philanderer got away without publicity lead him to duplicate the performance and thereby risk embarrassing and shaming his family a second time?

Pittsburgh, in the case of out-of-town applications.

We then get in touch with references — particularly those employed on other newspapers. This is usually done by telephone, because we find that the references will speak more frankly than they will write.

In the case of beginners, our supply largely comes from neighboring colleges. While a journalism course may be of value, we are even more interested in students who have worked on college publications, acted as correspondents or otherwise gotten some practical training in some phase of this business. In such cases we consult college authorities to check on their school work and local references as to character, family background, etc.

All promising applicants are interviewed by the managing editor, city editor and usually by myself.

Beginners are taken on with the definite understanding that they are on trial for two or three months. If they don't show promise by the end of that time we get rid of them before they have a chance to "jell."

This is no longer a business in which chances should be taken as regards employees. Every beginner will soon qualify for a

Generally, it's the family, rather than the culprit, that suffers most in a police court case. But should a newspaper "let the guy get away with it" to protect the family? I think not.

I'm as much of a sentimentalist as Mr. Boyd, but editors must be pretty hard-boiled when it comes to a question of suppressing news.

I predict that it won't be too long (if it already hasn't happened) before Mr. Boyd is confronted with a plea to "please keep this out of the paper" because "you didn't print that story about Mr. So-and-So." — DAVID SILVERMAN, Managing Editor, Minneapolis Star

salary undreamed of a few years ago. The rewards are high and the difficulties of getting rid of the so-so worker are great—so we are entitled to quality and should take extreme pains to try to get it.

Richmond Papers Return To Pre-War Policy

NOW THAT personnel has become more plentiful, The Richmond Times-Dispatch and News Leader have reverted to a careful scrutiny of applicants that was impossible during the war. An elaborate four-page questionnaire is used to provide complete background on persons seeking employment.

"Occasionally we employed a man in our times of greatest need without checking deeply enough into his background," says W. T. Christian, managing editor of The News Leader, "but we will not let expediency be a guiding factor hereafter."

"Strangely enough, our experience during the war was that the men with the greatest experience, achieved in the larger cities, turned out to be the poorest employees we had. Happily, we no longer have any of them. Where possible, we prefer to do the training of our own people."

Frank Lee Martin Library
Walter Williams Hall

Frank Lee Martin Library
Walter Williams Hall

What Newspapers Are Doing About

CHRONIC WRITERS OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE on the Courier-Journal's editorial page are devoted to the letter column — "The Point of View," we call it. We are devoted even to its chronic contributors. Their persistence may cause us to sigh at times because the volume of mail for that department is so heavy. But we try to maintain friendly relations with them, without permitting them to monopolize the space. They would joyfully do this if they could.

We have no hard-and-fast rule on how frequently a single letter-writer should be allowed to hold forth. However, we regard once in two weeks as about right and we try never to permit the same individual to sound off more than once in a week. We have to cut drastically nearly every letter we receive. The chronic cases, having learned this the hard way, incline to be brief. This gives them a place in our hearts.

In any case where space compels a choice between a stranger to "The Point of View" and an old-timer there, the stranger gets preference. A number of the old-timers have apparently dedicated their lives to holding our editorial opinions up to public scorn and exposing what they consider our devilish motives. To this class we give priority among the regulars, though the new or relatively infrequent contributor still has top priority.

We have rejection slips on which we can indicate why a letter is unacceptable. We use these, when necessary, in dealing with the general run of correspondence. Also, where the reason for returning a letter cannot be explained adequately by a check mark on the rejection slip, we send a note. But we are not so painstaking with the regulars. We have learned by experience that, when an average regular's letter fails to appear in due time, he soon lets fire another, undiscouraged and undismayed. Only rarely, if at all, do we have to communicate with him.

It is all simply a matter of effort to conduct the letter column in such a way that the attempt to be fair to all is manifest to the ordinary reader. We receive a complaint now and then—an outraged howl from a

THE QUESTION: "I wonder how other editors handle those newspaper pests, the chronic writers of letters to the editor. Do they let 'em have run of the column, choke 'em off, or what, without committing mayhem or themselves being dismembered?"—H. W. KENDALL, Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.

yearning publicist whose masterpiece has been truncated or has not appeared in print as soon as he thought it should. But this does not happen often enough to bother us.

"The Point of View" takes the full time of an experienced editor. He has one drawer of his desk set aside for the regulars. Their contributions go into it as they arrive and are extracted thereafter according to the needs of the day and the requirements of justice.

RUSSELL BRINEY,
Associate Editor,
Louisville Courier-Journal

★ ★ ★ ★

INASMUCH as The Sun daily receives ten letters for each one it can publish, the volume of our rejections is large. When return postage has been enclosed we send the rejected ones back at once. A few we save for a few weeks in a stockpile to be drawn upon at need. Where postage is not enclosed—and there seems to be no special reason for a reply from us—we put the rejected ones into a special file and keep them there for six months. If at the end of that time we have had no later inquiry we destroy them.

We find that the best way to deal with the chronic contributor is to write him a friendly note, thanking him for his interest, explaining this process; explaining also that on account of the great diversity of our readers' interests and the great number of our correspondents we have to spread our acceptances as much as possible. We frequently publish notice that The Sun will not accept for publication in the letters col-

umn open letters, letters addressed to public officials, carbon copies or letters duplicated to other newspapers. When called upon to defend this last part of the rule we take the ground that any letter worthy of the attention of our readers is worthy of a special appeal addressed exclusively to them. (We waive it, of course, in respect of appeals by the Red Cross, Associated Charities, etc.). When we find in another newspaper the duplicate of a letter sent to The Sun, we promptly draw this rule to the attention of the sender.

When it comes to congenital and incurable repeaters for whom all other recourse has failed, we just file their letters away and forget about them.

JAMES E. CRAIG,
Chief Editorial Writer,
The Sun, New York

★ ★ ★ ★

WE HAVE a reasonably active Letters-to-the-editor column. At times we find chronic letter-writers attempting to take advantage of the department. In such cases, we run their letter. If a real controversy develops, we will run a second letter and then inform them either through letter, or when they visit the office, that they have "had their say." I do not recall any recent incidents when an explanation that they have had full opportunity to present their views has not satisfied this type of letter writer.

GRAHAM M. DEAN,
Publisher,
Reno Newspapers, Inc.

★ ★ ★ ★

WE HAVE some chronic contributors who are among our best letters-to-the-editor composers. We have no objection to repetition, provided the letters are good, and provided the repetition does not become monotonous. If they do become monotonous or too frequent we return the letters. I don't think that the professional or chronic writer of letters to the editor is annoyed when he doesn't get one published. The ones who get annoyed are those who sit down and take pen in hand for the first time and compose a weighty com-

munication—and the fact that they have done it for the first time makes them feel that a newspaper has no right to refuse publication.

We endeavor either to acknowledge or return letters which are not used for publication. We have found the simplest practice to be a personal letter to each writer. Many letters, of course, fall into the same category and one letter can take care of a number of them.

B. M. MCKELWAY, Editor
The Washington Star

★ ★ ★ ★

WE GIVE chronic writers of letters to the editor the absent treatment. That is, when any letter writer starts bombarding us with several letters a week, or even a month, we just ignore all except the most important (if any are important).

They usually take the hint and stop sending so many, or perhaps stop writing altogether. But when a writer does protest that he is being discriminated against, we simply explain that the letters

have not been published because we have learned from long experience that a letter writer's interest to other readers declines in the same ratio as his letters increase in number—that chronic letter writers soon lose whatever reading public they ever had, particularly when the writers have some pet peeve or project which they promote repeatedly. We do not, however, put a ban on further letters.

Most letter writers seem to recognize the right of the editor to use letters or not, and to cut them if space is limited. But occasionally we find one who protests that he is being deprived of the "freedom of the press." Then we try tactfully to explain what "freedom of the press" really means. If that doesn't get across, we just have to take a firm position and decline to be argued, threatened or cajoled into abandoning our policy. This may incur ill will occasionally, but we have not found it a serious source of trouble.

EDWARD F. CRANE, Editor,
Burlington Free Press

Costello Has Just the Opposite Problem, Not Enough Letters to the Editor

THE CHRONIC writer of letters to the editor is no problem to us because he just doesn't exist in our community. We did have three or four before the war, but all must have been at least letter-writing casualties, for we never hear from them now.

When we did have them we gave them as much space as their correspondence required in order that by so doing we might encourage other people to write letters to the editor. All of which brings me to our problem: we don't get enough letters to the editor.

What can we do to get letters without going begging for them? We have done everything within reason to stimulate letters but with little or no measurable success. I might add that like almost all American papers we print letters that damn us as well as praise us.

I wonder how many other papers of around 38,000 circulation share our problem, but seldom lose any sleep worrying about what to do with or for the

chronic writer of letters to the editor? Our city of 100,000 population is highly industrialized. How much, if any, bearing does that have on the question?

THOMAS F. COSTELLO,
Editor,
The Lowell Sun

On Staff of 98th

George R. Shoals, managing editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, has been appointed to the staff of the 98th Infantry Division, Organized Reserves. Active in the New York Guard before Pearl Harbor, the Rochester editor enlisted in the Army soon after the outbreak of war, rapidly advanced to major and was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. For some time he headed the 400th CIC Detachment in the Africa-Middle East Theater and later was executive officer of the Mediterranean Theater G-2 section.

Crime News Makes One-Day Sensation

WEARY of the criticism that newspapers print too much crime news, Michael A. Gorman last month let his readers see how much crime news the average paper doesn't print.

For one day The Flint Journal featured crime, printing all the dispatches of this nature received, most of them in full. "The Journal believes," a front page box explained, "this presentation of a day's crime dispatches, as contrasted to this newspaper's practice of normally refusing publication of sensationalism, will demonstrate to its readers that The Journal is fully aware of its community and family responsibility."

More than three columns were devoted to what Grove Patterson calls "undistinguished murders" and other sordid crimes. Played up, under good news heads, were "Girl Hunted in Hammer Slaying of Brother," in Jersey City; "Boy Slays Housekeeper after Dad Ends Life," in Cleveland; "Farmers Kill Veterinarian" in Mexico City, and similar stories.

The amount of crime news printed in that edition, The Journal explained, is about average for 300 days of the year.

MERLE R. CHESSMAN

MERLE R. CHESSMAN, editor and publisher of the Astorian Budget, Astoria, Oregon, died September 1 at a Portland hospital after a brief illness at the age of 61.

Mr. Chessman, a native of Oregon, and a graduate of the University of Oregon, had spent his entire adult life in newspaper work in that state. From 1909 to 1918 he was with the East Oregonian at Pendleton and from 1918 until the time of his death he was with the Astorian Budget. He was a member of the state senate and previously had served on the state highway commission and the state fish commission. His activities on behalf of the lower Columbia River region were many.

Mr. Chessman had been a member of ASNE since 1944.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH ASNE MEMBERS

Frank Ahlgren Studied Reorientation Program

"THIS is the tale of two cities—once self-styled capitals of the world. Paris, a cynical and shop-worn bon vivant; Berlin, a battered slattern wandering aimlessly."

As a War Department consultant surveying our reorientation facilities in Germany and Austria, Frank Ahlgren traveled over most of Europe last summer; but his report to Commercial-Appeal readers dealt mainly with Paris and Berlin because "in their attitudes we well may find a key to the future of Europe." The series has been reprinted in a booklet, "Out of Europe's Ashes."

"In the tragedies of Paris and Berlin," Mr. Ahlgren says, "there are sharp reminders to the peoples of the Western Hemisphere and to America especially, that



IN MUNICH, Hugh W. Robinson of Westchester County Newspapers tries a pair of Bavarian leather shorts for size and fit. If the demand is sufficiently impressive, he promises to wear them to the 1948 convention.

the forces of unrest are simmering, and whether we like it or not, we are in the lists as champion of the cause of dignity and freedom for the individual. They look to us or they look to Moscow, and only the opportunists or the misguided can contemplate the latter without a shudder. The one sure means of getting co-operation from a Berliner is to ask, 'do you want us to go home?' It is probably early to forecast, but every indication seems to be that our part of Germany is going to give democracy a real try this time. The Weimar Republic never was a republic. Hitlerism failed and they fear Russia's brand of Communism so many of the leaders are showing genuine interest in our forms.

"In France the multiple-party system is sputtering, and blowing fuses. Unless someone brings some kind of orderliness in the economic and monetary operations, there may be a tremendous upheaval. You will have to rely on someone with far sharper perceptive powers than the writer to predict what La Belle France will do. But if Paris is any indication whatever, it cannot be far off."

The people of Middle Europe fear and hate the Russians, Mr. Ahlgren concludes, and will give democracy an earnest try if we help them through the ordeal of learning a new system. CARE packages are necessary but not enough. "We must be there to guide and assist in setting up the legislation and institutions that guarantee personal freedom and initiative. You just can't dole it out."

How to See the Navy

THE JOB of a newspaper publisher is profitable but thankless. Walker Long told readers of the Huntington (W. Va.) Herald-Advertiser recently. He's blamed for everything from absurd errors to bad presswork; but when praise is distributed "he's generally overlooked in favor of the reporter, the photographer or—in rare cases—the editor." But Mr. Long reflected, there's an occasional happy interlude and for him it was attending a ten day Navy Civilian Orientation Course.

He returned enthusiastic about



AFTER a hot and dirty trip through the Zollverein coal mine, largest in Europe, where a party of American editors descended to the 2000-level and crouched beneath high tension wires to watch a four-foot vein being worked, Ralph Cogblan of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch remarked, "John L. Lewis may have something."

the plan and the idea behind it, that between wars civilians tend to forget about the Army and Navy. In two Sunday articles he let his readers in on his experiences. Little of it would be news to men who had seen Naval service, he said, but at that he was convinced that few ex-service men had seen as much of the Navy as he did in ten days.

This from a Southerner!

JOHN A. PARK, editor and publisher of the Raleigh Times on his return from Europe: "The stories I heard from medical officers and others among the early American occupation forces lead me to believe that a serious mistake was made in allowing the Russians to enter Berlin first as victorious conquerors. By comparison, I consider General Sherman's plunderers and bummers almost as gentlemen."

Jones Saw Germany, But No Wild Boar

IN "Flight to Germany" Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor of The Tulsa Tribune, covers a War Department tour made by a dozen editors early last summer. Other ASNE members on that trip were Ralph Cogblan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Samuel L. Latimer, Jr., The State, Columbia, S. C.; John A. Park, Raleigh Times; and Edward Pooley, El Paso Herald-Post.

Mr. Jones wastes no sympathy on the Germans:

"Nuernberg was a cruel city. The castle keep had the finest collection of medieval torture weapons in the world . . . A symbol of the bloodlust that was the basic philosophy of Nazi-ism . . . Hitler brought his party rallies there . . . to heal the fuhrer in the name of blood and steel."

"For this reason the British and American air forces spent many more bombs upon this objective than its industrial or military importance warranted. We set out to flatten a symbol, to knock it down so thoroughly that even the squarest-headed German could hardly miss the lesson. We did a grand job."

But Germany, he believes, is the key to European recovery and "the first step is to send adequate food into the Ruhr. It would cost the American taxpayers about \$200,000,000 extra in a year. But the eventual cost to us in European relief if we



JULIO GARZON of La Prensa, New York City, right, with General Eleazar Lopez Contreras, former President of Venezuela.



W. R. MATHEWS, at the celebration of Transjordan's first independence anniversary.

don't get the Ruhr going is incalculable."

The children touched and worried him. "Whether these hungry, but handsome, children become the mothers and fathers of another generation of monsters, or whether they become assets to a world society may depend on what we do in the next few years."

On the lighter side, Mr. Jones describes a boar hunt near Stuttgart. For two hours he sat in the deepening dusk atop an eight-foot hunting stand, returned empty-handed—and found that his companions in another part of the forest had shot a female boar.

"Had I known before exactly what a wild boar looks like I would have spent the evening, not in the stand, but in a tree. This specimen, considered medium in size, was as long as a calf, as tall as a great dane, had long, sharp teeth and wore an expression of considerable annoyance. To meet such things in the twilight seems a very poor idea."

Reminder to Members

THE BOARD of Directors, meeting in Cleveland, October 25 and 26, will discuss Pulitzer prize cooperation, convention plans, banquet ticket limitation and other ASNE activities. Communications from members for consideration of the Board should be sent without delay to Secretary Dwight Young, editor-in-chief, The Journal-Herald, Dayton 2, Ohio.

It's a bit late for submitting applications for membership to be voted on at that meeting, but any received in the next week will be screened if time permits.

W. R. Mathews Guest Of King Abdulah

LONG before "One World" became a watchword, William R. Mathews, editor of The Arizona Daily Star, was globe-trotting and he's still at it. His latest three-months' tour took him through Europe to Transjordan, Egypt and Palestine.

His articles in The Star have been reprinted in tabloid newspaper form under the hopeful title, "Europe Will Recover." Subtitle: "But America's Political Help is as Necessary as Economic Aid."

Among his predictions:

"Europe is not going to hell, for a while at least; it is not going Communist, although we shall see numerous Communist scares; there is not going to be war, but we may do some shooting to maintain our positions in Berlin and Greece. Although Russia has been getting away with the biggest bluff in history, she cannot go to war. The coming war in Palestine can be localized."

"We can't pull out of Europe, Mr. Mathews says; and, on the other hand, 'to pour scores of billions into Europe unconditionally without the use of our political power, would be equally futile. It would blight incentive. A comparatively few billions of dollars, wisely used along with our political power to stimulate incentive among the people of Europe can restore peace and take Europe off an American dole."

To see both sides of the Palestine question, Mr. Mathews placed himself in the hands of the Jewish Agency for several days, then went on a conducted tour of the Arab district with the Arab Committee. His conclusions are summed up in a two-line head: "Little Chance of Peace in Palestine."

The most colorful function he attended was a review and parade in Amman, Transjordan, reviewed by King Abdulah—companies of "the most beautiful horseflesh that could be seen anywhere," followed by "a squadron of camels, trained to perfection in their military duties," and a dozen pieces of 105 mm. light field mortars. After the review, Mr. Mathews was one of five guests invited to feast with His Majesty in the palace.

Coghan Tells How National Conference Of Editorial Writers Came To Be Formed

• By RALPH COGHAN,
Editor, Editorial Page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

LAST JANUARY I was a guest speaker at the American Press Institute, then holding a seminar for editorial writers at Columbia University.

I was struck by the intense interest and high purpose of this gathering, which had constituted itself a workshop in the technique of editorial writing, and in the acquisition of information to improve daily output. My opening remarks consumed less than an hour, yet, sitting at that round table, I had to answer the most pointed and searching questions for the remainder of the day. We worked on a 9-to-5 shift. It was most stimulating.

I was also struck by the fact that, although I had been in the newspaper business for 25 years and know hundreds of newspaper men throughout the country, I had met before only one of the men at the seminar. Publishers and editors have societies in which they meet and exchange ideas. Reporters circulate and meet their fellow-craftsmen. But editorial writers, for the most part, are confined to so-called ivory towers which instead often seem like prisons.

Several of us talked it over at the American Press Institute seminar and decided it would be a good thing if some means were found for editorial writers to meet once a year to swap experiences and ideas, with the object of producing better editorial pages and thereby increasing editorial page influence. My own notion is that the prestige of the editorial page has been declining and that this tendency should be and can be arrested.

We decided to put the idea to a test. Leslie Moore of the Worcester Telegram agreed to take on the task. He sent letters to editorial writers throughout the country and found many of them warmly receptive. Moore then called an organization meeting in Washington last June, which was attended by himself, John Cline of the Washington Star, Robert Estabrook of the Washington Post and Irving Dilliard of the Post-Dispatch. They made plans for

the October meeting, details of which were printed in Editor and Publisher.

Whether the new organization will be successful or not depends upon its ability to preserve the seminar nature of the American Press Institute. My idea is that its proceedings should be quite informal, sharply candid and de-

voted very largely to criticism and analysis of editorial page methods and purposes. I think publishers and editors will find an improvement in the work of the men who attend the sessions. The creation of the National Conference of Editorial Writers is a compliment to Sevellon Brown, who, in the interest of improved craftsmanship, founded the American Press Institute.

FROM the secretary to the treasurer: "Eleven members have not paid their dues. A couple of members paid twice. Maybe that's why newspapermen are so poor!"

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

(Excerpts from an address by President N. R. Howard delivered at the convention of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association at Hot Springs, Ark., September 15.)

THERE are university presidents and similar wise men who heighten their personal reputations for association with the classical and the infinite by maintaining a lofty contempt for such vulgar vehicles as the daily press.

★ ★ ★

We are not the least sensitive craftsmen in the world, and it is very likely that, when attacked, we all take another look at our product, which is good for the product.

★ ★ ★

The few who always are in favor of tearing down the well-established could hardly overlook our business as a target today. Let that big-ness of the newspaper business be a part of the responsibility to which we are standing up.

★ ★ ★

There can be only one total power of the press. That is whatever power of enlightenment comes from the total of all kinds of newspapers engaging in the search for and publication of the facts. They could not unite in force in publication of mere opinion or evangelism; for no sizeable majority will ever agree on any one opinion. They could not even be united in force in the publication of untruth, if they wished, because untruths are too contradictory and slippery to handle. They could not even be united in a conspiracy of silence, not as long as a rival competitor waits across town or in the next county for the chance to scoop you.

★ ★ ★

There is a fundamental reason why newspapers will always have critics and traducers. That is, that newspapers, to be completely free, must be necessarily wild and restless agencies. The spirit of freedom of expression, freedom to print, is not just a courteous, polite spirit; it is full of audacity. Freedom means freedom to slug things out, to shock, to shout your words at the top of your voice.

★ ★ ★

As long as our loins are filled with that occupational disease of ours, that ache to search and discover and publish, neither the republic, nor the people, nor the newspapers have anything to worry about.

★ ★ ★

(Members desiring the full text of Mr. Howard's address should address the Office of the Bulletin, Wilmington 99, Delaware. Copies were made available through the courtesy of the SNPA.)

Resigned as Required Under the By-laws

FOUR resignations, all due to ineligibility under the by-laws, were received last month.

Abe Hurwitz, formerly editor-in-chief, The Jacksonville Journal, has left the John H. Perry Newspapers to work on the Miami Herald.

Harold Hartley resigned as managing editor of The Toledo Times last summer, spent the summer in Maine, has not decided his future plans.

Raymond D. Sill has left the Bradford (Pa.) Era of which he was editor to become secretary-manager of the Bradford Board of Commerce. Mr. Sill writes, "I regret very much that my change in occupation makes necessary this resignation, but after all one must comply with the by-laws of the organization."

Charles G. Dobbins, who resigned from The Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser last summer, hopes to be eligible to ASNE again eventually. "The privilege of attending your last two Washington conventions was highly valued," he says, "and I cherish some very fine associations and programs."

Editors in Bavaria Grateful for Interest

A NOTE of "herzlichsten Dank" has been received from the Zeitungsverleger-Verband at Augsburg-Goggingen for publishing, in the August Bulletin, an appeal for reference books for bombed-out newspaper offices in Bavaria.

Responding to the request, Virginius Dabney of the Richmond-Times Dispatch has sent eight books to the newspaper organization for distribution to its members, all of whom have been licensed by our government after selection for their anti-Nazi records. Since old reference books are better than none, Mr. Dabney included in the package a five-year-old Who's Who and last year's World Almanac, as well as an up-to-date Rand McNally Atlas.

Books may be mailed, parcel post rate, to Ernest J. Cramer, Information Control Division, Office of Military Government for Bavaria, APO 470, c/o Postmaster, New York City.



FIRST GRANDSON, E. K. Gaylord, publisher of the Oklahoman and Times, with Paul Belmar Davis. The baby's mother is the former Virginia Gaylord, before her marriage a member of the AP Washington Bureau.

Dwight Marvin Discusses Nomenclature and Fame

THERE ARE 14 directors of the ASNE. Just half of them have only two names while the rest have the customary three. Very possibly some of these had three names and dropped one of them. Did you ever realize that two names is the prime requisite for success? You don't believe it? Look over the list of our Presidents. You'll find that considerably more than half had only two names. Some had three and, realizing that they did not have a chance, dropped the third—Stephen Grover Cleveland, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, John Calvin Coolidge.

Yes, I have only two names. I dropped the third and look at me. At one time I reached the high point of heading the city tuberculosis committee.

DWIGHT MARVIN,
Troy Record

On Reading Obituaries

There is not in the press any reading so improving as the 'obits.' . . . I doubt very much indeed whether anyone could read obituaries every day for a year and remain a bad man or woman. —The Deceased, by Robert Cortes Holliday.

Dapping's Two Passions: Roosevelt and Reporting

AMONG the souvenirs which William O. Dapping, editor of the Auburn Citizen-Advertiser, cherishes are two that sum up the main interests of his professional life: A gold watch given him by the AP for his coverage of the Auburn prison riot of 1929, for which he also received a Pulitzer award; and four framed sets of Electoral College ballots he cast for Franklin D. Roosevelt. Reporting and Roosevelt have always run neck and neck in his affection.

As a reporter Mr. Dapping covered many grisly stories, including the burning of the Steamer Frontenac on Cayuga Lake and the wreck of the Lehigh Valley Atlantic City Express at Manchester, often scoring a beat and sometimes an exclusive. He cut his honeymoon short to cover an execution, later saw more than 20 men pay the extreme penalty and admits he 'liked it as a professional duty' although a horror of capital punishment grew on him and he feels sure these experiences "impaired him physically, perhaps mentally."

Harvard classmates, Mr. Dapping's admiration for the late President continued through the latter's political life. He is one of seven men in the nation who were members of the Electoral College for all four terms. When Mr. Roosevelt died, Mr. Dapping collected copies of every daily newspaper in New York State, including the foreign language press, had them bound in five volumes and presented them to the Roosevelt library. It was a prodigious task but Mr. Dapping believes that the wealth of anecdotes and editorials in the obituary editions will be useful to historians.

Active in conservation groups, Mr. Dapping served on the Conservation Council of the state under three governors. He has also been president of various editors' and publishers' organizations, has held every office in the New York State Publishers Association and last year was elected its president, this though he plays the role (and enjoys it) of 'hair shirt' in an organization whose members are predominantly Republican.

Stopher Discusses Desks and Deadlines In Group (Not Chain) Newspaper Offices

(Reprinted from *The Town Crier*, daily column of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, of which Mr. Stopher was guest columnist for the day.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ASNE BULLETIN

Dear Editor:

In a brief flurry of housecleaning I came upon the August Bulletin. This reminded me of your letter of a couple of months ago asking "How currently should editorials relate to the front page of the same day?" I am still confident that your letter will turn up in due time, because nothing ever gets permanently lost around here. However, my mail, notes and miscellaneous memoranda frequently are mislaid for as long as six months—embarrassing! The reason for this is that I have no desk.

The management welcomed me like a prodigal son when I came home from a stint in the army two years ago. Nothing was too good for their boy. "Want a raise? O. K.! Need a new typewriter? Right away!" But a desk? "Sorry. No place to put it."

Congress overlooked that one when it was writing the GI Bill of Rights. That is why I am a pillar to post operator—here today and behind the elevator shaft tomorrow.

I guess it would be pretty silly for a fellow with my record for procrastination to try to tell you that my editorial page colleagues and I try to keep our department abreast of page one. You would want to know if Managing Editor Lynn Holcomb was getting out a monthly magazine.

So I won't try to kid you. Our page is made up at 10 o'clock in the morning while most of the copy for page one is still on the linotype machines. We comment, as a rule, on YESTERDAY'S news, trusting the reader to remember for at least 24 hours what a given news story said, so we aren't obliged to reprint the gist of it and then add our opinions as a postscript.

Sometimes, when events of earth-shaking importance come along, especially toward the end of a week, we mark time for a day or so until JSK has spoken—

in "The Editor's Notebook." We don't think the boss should be denied the right to express his opinion just because he happens to own the newspaper.

Besides, though I hasten to remind you that the Knight newspapers are a "group" and not a "chain," we figure it does no harm to let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. If the Marshall Plan is the grandest thing since the Ten Commandments, in the *Chicago Daily News*, it shouldn't be a misbegotten, Fascist plot in the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Miami Herald* and the *Beacon Journal*. The "Press" section editors of *Time* and *Newsweek* would be confused.

I'll grant you that the ideal newspaper would print all the news worthy of editorial comment on page one and the paper's considered views, preferably in corresponding positions, on the editorial page the same day. But this is not practical in our case and fortunately not necessary.

One of the few advantages of a one-newspaper town is that the editorial writers can wait a day or two or even longer before committing themselves without being accused of stalling to see what the opposition was going to say.

It isn't much fun writing editorials for the only paper in town, partly because there is nobody to feud with and partly because you feel somewhat self-conscious about your responsibility.

You can't take a "go to hell" attitude, as in the old days, because you realize that readers who don't like what you say have nowhere else to turn. This does not mean that you must confine yourself to praise of autumn's beauty and denunciation of the man-eating shark.

You can take a firm position on any controversial subject, but you don't punctuate your pronouncements with assertions that everybody who disagrees with you must have holes in his head.

The lack of competition lessens the zest. But it does have the redeeming feature of permitting the editorial writers to ponder a while and maybe even do a little research before engraving their judgments in the enduring stone of page 6. Just as a guess,

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD *Cleveland News*

1st VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN D. CANHAM *Christian Science Monitor*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
B. M. MCKELWAY *Washington Star*

SECRETARY
DWIGHT YOUNG *Dayton Journal-Herald*

TREASURER
ALEXANDER F. JONES *Washington Post*

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WILBUR FORREST *New York Herald Tribune*
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DWIGHT PERRIN *Philadelphia Bulletin*

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 290 October 1, 1947

I'd say that the readers probably prefer it that way. We make plenty of mistakes, as they freely point out in the "Voice of the People" column, without making more by rushing into print with the first thought that comes to mind.

(In conclusion, let me suggest a question for The Bulletin's next forum: "Do you think every editor should have a desk of his own?" I've got positive opinions about this, and you won't have to ask for them twice.)

Sincerely,
ROBERT H. STOPHER

Personals

Lewis R. Hovey, editor and publisher of the *Beverly Evening Times* has been named, by Gov. Bradford of Massachusetts, for a three year term to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Kenneth D. Toolil has disposed of his interest in The Erie Dispatch-Herald and on September 15 took up his duties as editor of the editorial page of the *St. Louis Star-Times*.

Ralph McGill, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, has been awarded a plaque for his "untiring efforts in combating the forces of bigotry" by the Georgia Department of Jewish War Veterans.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 291

November 1, 1947

Report From Cleveland . . .

DIRECTORS of the Society, all present but Wilbur Forrest who was abroad, met in the Union Club in Cleveland, October 24 and 25, and in two crowded days received reports of committee chairmen, elected 27 new members, laid the groundwork of the program for the 1948 meeting and conducted other interim business until the membership meets in Washington next April.

McKelway New Chairman

PRESIDENT N. R. HOWARD named B. M. McKelway as program chairman when Dwight Perrin asked to be relieved of that appointment. Now serving as press relations chairman, and on special assignments as a member of the Washington committee, Mr. McKelway agreed to take on the added burden.

Reports Made By Canham

Taking over from Mr. Forrest the leadership in ASNE's campaign for freedom of information, Erwin D. Canham reported to the Board as chairman of the Society's Committee on World Freedom of Information, and as ASNE representative on the United States National Commission for Unesco. He also gave an account of the meeting of the Commission on the Free Flow of Information which he attended last month in Paris at the request of Unesco. The section of his report dealing with that conference appears elsewhere in this issue.

Furthering the same cause, the Board expressed its interest in the Geneva Conference of Freedom of Information and authorized the Society's cooperation with the State Department in the work of the American delegation.

World News Dissemination

Hamilton Owens made a progress report for the standing committee on World Dissemination of News, which he heads. This committee was appointed last year "to review regularly the character of the news disseminated by the State Department." Mr. Owens has made a continu-

ing study of such news, and gathered notes on its reception overseas from government representatives and returned travelers. His committee's complete report will be brought up to date early next year and presented at the convention.

News Controls Protested

Two matters affecting the free flow of information at home also were discussed at length. The Board's resolution on the Veterans' Administration directive, classifying as confidential information which does not affect national security, appears in full in this issue. The question of Post Office censorship, threatened when the *St. Louis Star-Times* published the story of the lottery

in which a Negro was denied a prize, was referred to Richard W. Clarke, New York Daily News, as Resolutions Chairman.

Amendment Proposed

IN 1944 the Society passed an amendment to the constitution providing that any member elected after October 1, 1943, who fails to attend the convention for three successive years shall be notified and, if he fails to attend the next convention, shall be dropped from membership unless retained by vote of the directors.

The Board now proposes that this amendment be amended by dropping the qualification "elected after October 1, 1943." This change in the by-laws will be voted on by the membership next April.

As the amendment stands, only one member would be currently affected. Under the further amendment, 58 members, elected before 1943, who have not attended the last three conventions would be dropped after the required warning.

Sketched at Directors' Meeting

By JACK SHERIDAN, Cleveland News Staff Artist



HAMILTON OWENS
Editor
Baltimore Sunpapers



VIRGINIUS DABNEY
Editor
Richmond Times-Dispatch



DWIGHT S. PERRIN
Managing Editor
Philadelphia Bulletin

Commission Suggests Practical Steps To Increase Free Flow of Information

• By ERWIN D. CANHAM, Editor, Christian Science Monitor, Chairman, ASNE Committee on Freedom of Information

AT THE REQUEST of President Forrest last year, I represented ASNE on the United States National Commission for Unesco. This appointment continues for another year under the National Commission's rules, fixed by Act of Congress. And this year I have been drafted by President Howard to act as Chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee. The two jobs dovetail, and they have led to interesting developments.

From October 13-17, at the request and expense of Unesco, I served in Paris on a Commission on the Free Flow of Information. This group was composed of 14 editors or so-called experts on the free flow of information from 11 countries. We were instructed to draft a report which—within existing political limitations—would propose practical steps to increase the flow of information across national frontiers. Two of our members came from the other side of the iron curtain: a Pole and a Czech.

Those of our recommendations most pertinent to ASNE were these:

The formation, where they do not already exist, of national organizations of editors along the lines of ASNE with such adaptations as suit different national conditions. (The same recommendation also applies to the fields of radio, films, periodicals and books.)

Coordination of these national organizations into an International Institute of Press and Information.

Setting up, with the help of this Institute, of seminars of working newspapermen comparable to the American Press Institute.

Inauguration of programs for the exchange of newspapermen between various countries. The non-Americans are desperately anxious to visit the United States and study press techniques here. They recognize that we may not be so interested in studying press conditions in their countries, so they suggest that our exchange professionals be permitted to do

what they will in their countries—work as foreign correspondents, study economic, political or social conditions, etc.

Establishment, at the International Institute of Press and Information (which would be in Europe where it is most needed) of reference libraries and exhibit material, showing advanced press techniques to less advanced countries.

There were many other recommendations, such as the creation in other countries of bodies like the U. S. National Commission for Unesco, the pooling of already published articles and their interchange through Unesco, support of low-priced books, and so on.

The Paris meeting seemed to me to be of immense potential significance for one thing alone: the opportunity it gave to tell editors from other countries of the value of ASNE, and the project for an international organization in which ASNE might be represented. There is now no actual and effective international organization of editors. The deficiency will be particularly glaring at the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information, where the only official observer from the profession, to date, will be the International Organization of Journalists, a Communist-dominated body. It is the only observer because editors and publishers have never organized internationally. When they do, they will gladly be admitted to representation.

Moreover, there are very few countries where effective national organizations of editors exist. Such organizations could do for such countries—particularly for the western democracies—what ASNE and all it stands for has done for editors in the United States. As I explained over and over to my foreign colleagues at Paris, ASNE has given us status, power, prestige, and a vehicle with which to speak and act together.

I believe that the uplifting and strengthening of the status of editors in foreign countries will

be a big potential contribution to the free flow of information. It will not show results all at once. But in the end, we will have somewhat like-minded professionals able to talk and act with one another across national boundaries.

The program proposed for the International Institute of Press and Information closely follows the techniques for self-improvement which are coming ahead so rapidly in the United States. Journalism schools, Editor and Publisher, ASNE, NEA, the Inland Press, the AP Managing Editors Conference, the American Press Institute, the Nieman Fellowships, the state and regional organizations of editors—all these and many more express our American methods of mutual aid. Such things are almost unknown abroad, but foreign editors are reaching out hungrily for them.

I hope this program can go forward, and that ASNE can help.

(In a later issue Mr. Canham will tell where the U. S. National Commission for Unesco fits in the picture.)

Board Members Entertained

BOARD members and their wives were entertained at a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bellamy Saturday evening, October 25. Mr. Bellamy, editor of The Cleveland Plain Dealer, is a past president of ASNE. Guests of honor were another past president, Grove Patterson, editor of the Toledo Blade, and Mrs. Patterson.

The directors and members of the Society from all three Cleveland newspapers were luncheon guests Saturday of N. R. Howard. Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Howard entertained the ladies on a tour of the city.

Convention Dates April 15-17

THE CONVENTION comes early next year, April 15, 16 and 17. The meeting again will be held in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

A suggestion that the Society meet in San Francisco in 1949 was received coolly by the president and first vice president, warmly upheld by its three proponents, Hamilton Owens, Virginia Dabney and Oleta Culp Hobby. No vote taken; matter referred to The Bulletin for membership discussion.

Cooperation Voted On Pulitzer Juries

IN LINE with the opinion of the majority of members who expressed their views in The Bulletin, the Board decided to cooperate again with Columbia University by appointing ASNE members to the semi-final Pulitzer juries. They will be named by President Howard in the near future.

Also considered was a suggestion made by Melville F. Ferguson, editor of The Philadelphia Bulletin, that ASNE award prizes of its own. The directors recognized the great potentialities and the equally great pitfalls in such a plan. On the one hand, ASNE's accolade would be more highly prized than any other journalistic honor; on the other, the field is already crowded with various awards.

President Howard appointed David Lawrence, United States News, and Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, to devise some unique and suitable form of recognition for journalistic achievement.

Banquet Tickets To Be Limited

BANQUET tickets will be limited to four to each member attending the 1948 convention.

On that basis it still will be an impressively large affair, but not overcrowded if members observe a concomitant ruling laid down by the directors: No begging or borrowing from members who are not using their quota.

Normally many members attend the banquet alone or take only one or two guests. If the same proportion follows that practice as in other years, the new plan will work. The alternative is bedlam. A probable 350 members will attend the 1948 meeting; if all should buy the legal four tickets, disposing of extras to friends within the Society, the crowd would exceed 1400—and the Statler seats only 1101, including tables behind posts.

The directors foresaw the possibility of rationing bringing about a black market in tickets but expressed the belief that the membership would understand the problem and abide by the rule, which is the only solution to last year's overcrowding.

PROTEST TO WASHINGTON

(The following resolution was adopted by the ASNE Board on October 25. On October 28, President Truman's Security Advisory Board disclosed that it was modifying the directive which the Board of Directors had protested and which had been assailed by the press generally as an effort to gag news sources.)

IN AN ATTEMPT to apply the President's loyalty order of last March, a set of regulations is being drawn up whose effect would be to place even the ordinary affairs of federal agencies beyond public scrutiny. The regulations are the work of the Security Advisory Board of the State, War, and Navy department coordinating committee.

A directive already has been issued for the guidance of the Veterans' Administration, which evidently is a pattern for directives to be issued to other federal agencies. It classifies as confidential all "information the unauthorized disclosure of which, although not endangering the national security, would be prejudicial to the interests or prestige of the nation, any governmental activity, or an individual, or would cause administrative embarrassment or difficulty."

The broad nature of this language could be used to deprive the public of information to which it is entitled. While the announced purpose of the President's loyalty order is to protect the nation in the difficult international situation which now exists, the Veterans' Administration directive classes as confidential information which does not affect the national security.

Under the directive, any administrative officer could shield himself from public scrutiny or criticism by simply labeling the information as "confidential". Those proposing the directive have the effrontery to class as confidential any information that "would cause administrative embarrassment or difficulty". In other words, an effective screen would be thrown about governmental operations behind which many evils could flourish without detection.

If the Veterans' Administration directive is made effective to all federal agencies, no person in the federal government could give information to the press without fear of grave reprisals from his superiors. Without questioning the purpose of the President's loyalty order of last March, this

board feels that the committee which is implementing it has gone far beyond any reasonable exercise of its authority. We urge the President to nullify the Veterans' Administration gag rule, and to strike any such rule out of the regulations for other departments. Congress even in wartime refused to adopt a similar proposal.

LISTENING IN . . .

THE LATE Waldo Arnold of The Milwaukee Journal once posed this question: "If the affairs of the Society can be resolved in three days at the annual convention, how does the Board of Directors consume two full days at its meetings?"

For one thing, the directors, like the members in convention, edit resolutions.

Just how, for instance, does the Board react to the possibilities of gag rule with which the directive implementing the Loyalty Order is fraught (or was until its noxious phrases were eliminated)? Everyone agrees that "fraught" is a lovely word. But are we "concerned," "alarmed," "astounded," or "amazed"?

Voice from the end of the table: "Personally, I am 'shocked'."

And from the other end: "How about 'profoundly shocked'?"

Nat Howard: "'Shocked' is more forceful than 'profoundly shocked'."

Wright Bryan: "Or we could make it 'regusted'."

So it goes. Is the matter a "problem" or an "issue"? Which ever it is, has it been "decreed" or "arbitrarily declared"? Should the pronoun be "it" or "they" when the antecedent is "Board of Directors"? And is "implement" a good, straight, forceful word or a two-bit word fraught, shall we say, with corn.

Concluding comment by Ralph Coghlan: "They say the St. James' version of the Bible was written by a committee but I doubt it."

Hamilton Owens: "It couldn't have been. It wouldn't be finished yet."

SOCIETY HAS 27 NEW MEMBERS

Roscoe Drummond, Arthur Krock, and Walter Lippmann

Re-elected to Membership For Distinguished Service to Journalism

THE BOARD elected 27 members, 19 from cities over 50,000 population; five from smaller cities; and three, all former members of the Society, for distinguished service to journalism.

In the last group are J. Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor, former ASNE director and secretary; Arthur Krock, New York Times, a charter member and director, then with the Louisville Times; and Walter Lippmann, who was with the New York World when originally elected.

Those regularly elected follow: WILLIAM McKEEHAN REDD, editor, The Charlotte News. GROVER C. HALL, Jr., associate editor, The Montgomery Advertiser.

EDWARD J. GERRITY, managing editor, The Scranton Times.

NORMAN E. ISAACS, managing editor, St. Louis Star-Times.

CHARLES LEE REESE, Jr., executive editor, News-Journal Papers, Wilmington, Del.

FRANK L. DENNIS, assistant managing editor, The Washington Post.

JAMES RUSSELL WIGGINS, managing editor, The Washington Post.

FRANK HAWKINS, associate editor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

ROBERT J. ARTHUR, editor, The Scranton Tribune.

ROBERT N. CALDWELL, managing editor, Bayonne Times.

WILLIAM H. HEATH, editor, Haverhill Gazette.

JOHN J. McDONNELL, editor, Perth Amboy Evening News.

HOMER P. PICKRELL, editor, Albuquerque Journal.

JOHN F. LUX, editor and publisher, Joliet Herald-News.

CHARLES McD. PUCKETTE, general manager, Chattanooga Times.

GENE THORNE, managing editor, Waterloo Daily Courier.

O. D. BURGE, managing editor, Jacksonville Journal.

CHARLES WILLIAM DRESSLER, associate editor, Johnstown Tribune.

E. R. McCULLOUGH, managing editor, Stamford Advocate.

Two on the list are former members, Mr. Wiggins when he was editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, and Mr.

Puckette who was a charter member of the Society, then with the New York Post.

After thorough consideration of 20 applicants from cities under 50,000 population, the Board elected the limit of five permitted under the by-laws. They are:

KENNETH W. SIMONS, editor and vice president, Bismarck (N. Dak.) Tribune.

HENRY J. SCHMITT, editor and publisher, Aberdeen (S. Dak.) American-News.

THOMAS G. LANPHER, Jr., editor, Boise (Idaho) Statesman.

JOHN S. HOOPER, assistant publisher, Brattleboro (Vt.) Reformer.

DOLPH SIMONS, publisher, Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.

The Board commended and thanked A. M. Piper, membership chairman, for his thoroughness and helpfulness. Mr. Piper, editor of the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, made the 900-mile trip to Cleveland to report for his committee.

Star-Ledger Has No City Editor In Revamped News Room Set-Up

By PHILIP HOCHSTEIN, Editor Newark Star-Ledger

The Star-Ledger recently departed from the conventional management of its news room. We no longer operate through a city editor; instead we have a public affairs editor, a feature news editor, and a spot news campaign editor—the latter position we ultimately may divide into two, a spot news editor and a campaign editor.

These function under the managing editor and the four work as a group to provide news content for the paper and to manage the staff. Each editor is responsible to see that his field of news is well represented in the day's paper, both in respect to local and wire copy. The telegraph editor, as the managing editor, works with the departmental editors.

Each departmental editor has a few staff men assigned to him as a permanent nucleus; as his needs occur he confers with the managing editor for additional

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 98, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7980.

No. 291 November 1, 1947

THE TREASURER'S report, plan for the convention program and other news of the Board meeting crowded out of this issue will appear in December.

assistance and the staff is budgeted by the managing editor to the departmental editors from day to day as the result of conferences in which the managing editor acts as the final arbiter of competing values.

This system has been in effect here for about a month. There is some resistance on the part of some staff members but we feel that the new arrangement has given us a better balanced news content, a livelier attitude toward the news of the day and a greater freedom from bureaucratic habits.

The most notable improvement has been in the field of public affairs. We are getting away from long, dull stories and obtaining a more intelligent and readable treatment of public affairs news. We are also beginning to obtain a livelier development of spot news stories. Ultimately we may turn loose a campaign editor with one or two assistants to devote themselves exclusively to civic welfare and civic improvement.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 292

December 1, 1947

Gag Rule Protest By ASNE Board Widely Acclaimed

THE ASNE Board resolution protesting the proposed draft of Federal security regulations, drawn up by the Security Advisory Board of the State-Defense Co-ordinating Committee, won widespread approval in the nation's press. "Security is one thing but withholding information to which the public is entitled is another" was the gist of the editorials. Excerpts follow.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

AFTER protests by various newspapers and the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Veterans' Administration has commenced to loosen the harsh gag on its employees...

This is some improvement, but even the remote threat of a bureaucratic iron curtain has no place in the United States. Whether they are actually used or not, the regulations should be purged of all penalties for revealing information that does not affect national security.

NEW YORK NEWS

A PLAN was in the Washington works to clap what would amount to military secrecy on non-military Federal Government agencies... Getting wind of the scheme, the American Society of Newspaper Editors passed a vigorous resolution against it. As a result, the plan died aborning.

Asked at a press conference last week to comment on the incident, President Truman got pettish, and said that the press had a bad habit of picking up small bits of information, advance tips, etc., and squawking prematurely about such of these things as it didn't like.

We had thought that Mr.

(Continued on Page 4)

Hold Everything

IT IS no use sending banquet reservations now, as some members already are doing. Only the price, \$10, and the ticket limit of four have been decided. Requests for reservations will not be honored until complete arrangements are made and announced in The Bulletin early next spring.

Group to Discuss AEC Information

THE BOARD, at its last meeting, authorized appointment of a committee to discuss with the Atomic Energy Commission the subject of educational information regarding atomic energy. President Howard has named the following:

GIDEON SEYMOUR, Minneapolis Star Journal, chairman
W. S. GILMORE, Detroit News
LAURENCE L. WINSHIP, Boston Globe

B. M. McKELWAY, Washington Star

C. G. WELLINGTON, Kansas City Star

PAUL C. SMITH, San Francisco Chronicle

Chairman Lillenthal and W. W. Waymack, formerly editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune and now a member of AEC, have been eager to discuss information problems with representatives of the Society.

Perrin to Syracuse

DWIGHT PERRIN, managing editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin since 1938, has been named executive editor of the Syracuse Journal Herald, effective January 1.

Previously he had been assistant managing editor of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, and before that, city editor of The New York Tribune, The Herald, and The Herald Tribune. Mr. Perrin has been an ASNE director since 1946.

Hoke Welch Found Press Institute Exciting Venture

By HOKE WELCH
Managing Editor,
The Miami Daily News

IT SHOULDN'T happen to a dog — two Florida hurricanes with a managing editors' seminar sandwiched in between — but I'm glad it happened to me. The seminar, that is.

Because the three weeks I spent at Columbia University, Oct. 22-Nov. 10, were the most profitable of my twenty years in newspaper work.

A leading American editor sent off the American Press Institute's second annual seminar with this challenge: "Not since the founding of the Republic have newspapermen faced a more profound responsibility than they face at this hour."

Then 27 newspapermen from 19 states put on the brass knucks with over 50 guest experts. There were 30 three-hour round tables and innumerable dormitory bull sessions.

The result: The Newspaper of Tomorrow will be as streamlined as a ramjet. It will have the pictorial appeal of a Powers' brunette. And it will be read as concisely, smoothly and informatively as—hold everything!—a radio announcer presenting a news broadcast.

These changes, meaning re-design of the future newspaper from front to back — a new look, a new approach, a new newspaper — weren't just the contemplative considerations of 27 editors taking a scholastic interlude; they are MUST! The challenge of television, extended radio coverage and facsimile, not to mention the weekly news magazines, makes them so.

They explode traditional coverage, of plowing and re-plowing

the same old field for news; they take the newspaper out of its rut and put it in the new groove of a lickety-split age—where time for reading and what is read are both streamlined.

These changes were called with the staccato rapidity of a machine gun aimed undeviatingly on its target — the Newspaper of Tomorrow.

Here are the shots that explode tradition, of what a newspaper should be, and blast out the foundation for the "new" newspaper.

FEWER EDITIONS: Editors will have time to digest the news then and present it in clear, concise, quickly readable form. For easier, faster reading there must be more time for handling.

PAGE ONE: Fewer and better written stories. No jumps! Seventy-five per cent of readers quit at the "continued" line. Depressing news will take a back seat. Page one will carry at least one telegraph and one local human interest story.

INSIDE PAGES: They've been impoverished by our efforts to get everything on page one. With jumps out, inside pages will sparkle with important stories and pictures. A "strip tease" index on page one will point them out.

WOMEN'S AND SOCIETY PAGES: Some of the frills will be eliminated or condensed. More attention will be paid to making life a little easier for the housewife. Reader service will be the keynote. Home decorating, fashions, food, beauty and fiction are tops in readership in that order. Teen-age stories are very popular.

REPORTERS: They will write as if talking with their readers. Their sentences will average around 20 words. Their leads will not choke the reader because everything will not be squeezed into the first sentence or paragraph. Instead, a trap will be set for the reader in the first sentence.

Stories will be simplified as far as possible without sacrificing accuracy. Reporters will say, for instance, cuts and bruises instead of lacerations and contusions. Understandable phraseology will replace the complicated, such as "actuary principles" and "categorically speaking." Reporters also will spend less time on defensive coverage and more time

Cure for Obnoxious Letter-to-Editor Writers

SPEAKING of chronic writers of letters to the editor (October Bulletin), F. W. Brinkerhoff, editor of The Pittsburg (Kan.) Sun and Headlight, says:

"I have found one way to stop many obnoxious writers was to print their letters as written, without any editing except, of course, for libelous statements. Many of these correspondents are not well acquainted with English or spelling and most of them are always insistent that their letters be printed as written. The publication of a letter in its original form often will close the career of a nuisance as a publicist."

on digging up good interpretative and readable stories.

PICTURES: More will be used. They have 80 per cent and higher readership, yet are first to feel the axe when space is tight. Hodge-podge layouts will yield to picture stories.

COLUMNISTS: Use of syndicated columns will be curtailed and they will be sharply edited, and used on a merit rather than a continuity basis. More good local columns will be developed.

SPACE: When the news and feature space is dealt out, the spot news hole will come first and departmental pressures — society, sports, etc. — will not be allowed to throw the editorial content out of balance.

COMICS: They are the only part of the paper we cannot edit. Syndicates will be prodded into keeping them on high level. Quality instead of quantity will be sought. Both strips and panels are enjoying amazing growth in popularity, are translated into 100 languages and dialects. Schools are using them to teach various subjects, advertisers more and more to tell their story. Comics showing human weaknesses are extremely popular, continuity comics well read because they are novels in narrative form and probably only fiction some people have time to read.

FINANCIAL PAGES: The poor man will get a break. He will be given reports on wages, future conditions affecting him, his side of the financial picture. Local business trends will be featured.

LABOR NEWS: More emphasis will be placed on interpreting the economic impact on workers and

public. Both labor and management will have equal chance to say their pieces.

EDUCATION NEWS: Now sadly neglected, it will be dramatized. Almost 64,000,000 people are directly interested in education news. New methods of teaching will be featured.

SCIENCE AND MEDICAL NEWS: Children learn science in schools and become an eager audience for this type of news. Articles on astronomy, atomic energy and medicine top popularity lists. Medical news hits the reader on the inside. Some of the most exciting news is in this field. A committee of local doctors will be asked to assist in a better presentation of this news.

MAKEUP: The beanpole appearance of pages will disappear in favor of the cross-sweep of horizontal makeup. More white space will be used around heads and in body type. Each story and head will be so placed as not to conflict with others. Column rules will disappear. Shorter paragraphs, indentations and italics will dress up stories. Meaningless subheads will be dropped. Brighter and briefer heads will lead reader quickly into story. No decks to wade through.

PERSONNEL: Increasing cost of production will force long range program of staff selection and elimination of deadwood.

COMPETITION: We will quit trying to ape our competitor. If he has us licked on features, we will lick hell out of him on news. This will create a desire for both papers.

Finally, the Newspaper of Tomorrow is quite likely to be tossed upon the American porch in tabloid size. Full of color, too. There appears to be a trend in this direction. Ads, stories and pictures can be presented more effectively.

The drawback of tabloid style is the lingering odor in the public's nostrils. Tabloids, it was agreed, however, can be respectable.

Summing up, another leading editor said, "The American newspapers' assumption of responsibility for public guidance and leadership will some day be recorded as one of the brightest pages in the history of American journalism."

With this, members of the seminar broke for home to send Tomorrow's Newspaper to press.

Louisville Times Now Prints Names Of Juvenile Vandals

WITHIN the year, The Louisville Times has changed its policy in handling some types of crime news.

1. It is now using names of juveniles arrested for vandalism. The result, says A. Y. Aronson, managing editor, has been a marked decrease in private property loss through increased parent discipline. Public approves; social workers still protest.

2. Omission in headlines only of "Negro" in crime stories.

3. Use of names of women charging rape if defendant is found not guilty, providing justifiable protection for men from frustrated women. Result: Sharp decrease in unfounded arrests. Where rape charges result in conviction, women's names are omitted.

"The Times," says Mr. Aronson, "just doesn't like to be a party to shenanigans."

Publication of names of juvenile delinquents, against the law in some states and frowned upon by most newspapers, was advocated recently by Circuit Judge Lewis H. Miller of West Virginia. "Until we make known the facts, this type of crime will continue to grow," Judge Miller told a Roane County Grand Jury.

Taking the opposite view, The Nassau Daily Review-Star, according to Arthur L. Hodges, editor, "goes far beyond the requirements of the law in protecting the names of minors involved with the law, hoping to avoid tagging any minor with a police record as a result of his first brush with the authorities."

Nor does the Review-Star speak of "teen-age offenders" or "teen-age criminals." "Because of the prominence given 'teen-agers' in the news during the last two years," Mr. Hodges says, "we have stopped using this term except in a favorable connection."

Cologne Information Office Asks Aid in Compiling Records

SECRETARY Dwight Young has received an appeal from Dr. H. Schmitt, Chief of the Cologne Information Office, asking American editors' aid in compiling a record of the occupation of the city.

No Cologne newspapers were

published in that period and no reliable German reporters were present, Dr. Schmitt says. To fill the gap in the archives he would deeply appreciate any copies of newspapers for March, 1945, that ASNE members might send him.

Address Dr. H. Schmitt, Nachrichtenamt der Stadt Köln, Rathaus, Köln am Rhein. His non-Nazi record is vouched for in an accompanying letter from Mrs. F. H. Sauveur of Liaison and Protocol, OMGUS.

Discussion Leaders Drawn from ASNE

WELL REPRESENTED at all American Press Institute seminars, the ASNE really took over the sessions for managing editors and news editors, on which Hoke Welch of the Miami News reports in this issue.

"I felt mighty proud," says John R. Herbert, managing editor of The Quincy Patriot Ledger, who attended, "when the experts on various subjects included so many members of the Society." Among them were:

Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, and Sevelton Brown, editor and publisher of the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin, who welcomed the editors, and the following discussion leaders: Erwin D. Canham, editor of The Christian Science Monitor, and ASNE first vice-president; W. S. Gilmore, editor of the Detroit News, and ASNE past president; Vincent S. Jones, executive editor of the Utica Observer-Dispatch; Norman Shaw, managing editor, The Cleveland Press; Basil L. Walters, executive editor, Knight Newspapers; M. H. Williams, executive editor, Worcester Telegram; Whitelaw Reid, editor of the New York Herald Tribune; B. M. McKelway, editor of the Washington Star; and Alexander F. Jones, assistant to the publisher of The Washington Post.

Low-cost Menus Featured By Rochester Times-Union

THE Rochester Times-Union beat the feature services on providing low-cost menus to meet rising food costs. Recipes and suggestions were provided by the dieticians of local companies and other members of the county Nutrition Committee.

"When INS and NEA started on the same theme," says Joseph T.

Nominations Chairman Already At Work

WITH the convention four months off, W. R. Walton, managing editor of The South Bend Tribune, already has begun his work as Nominations Chairman



W. R. WALTON

by soliciting his committee for initial suggestions.

This is a drastic change from the procedure of a decade ago. The by-laws state that the report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to members two weeks prior to the

election; but editors are not particularly given to following rules. In the 1930's, the president named the committee from the floor; the committee looked over the crowd, went into a huddle and a half hour later came up with its selections. The more formal procedure of recent years has noticeably increased members' interest in elections.

A newer member of the Society — five year class — Mr. Walton heads a committee for the first time.

Following graduation from the University of Michigan in 1924, he worked on the staff of The South Bend Tribune until 1932, resigning as city editor to join the Associated Press in Chicago. Five years later he was transferred to Washington as newsphoto editor.

Offered the managing editorship of The Tribune by F. A. Miller, editor and publisher, Mr. Walton returned to South Bend. A native Hoosier, he was pleased to be going home, but he admits he had a hard time tearing himself from Washington. His last day there was December 7, 1941!

Adams, managing editor, "The Times-Union combined the four it was using and gave them major play on the first page of the second section. After a week of hammering it there, it moved to run of paper, but still as a full two-column aid to the housewife, hungry for means to stretch her allowance."

EDITORIALS BACK UP ASNE PROTEST TO WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page 1)

Truman had a better understanding than that of the press' prime function in a republic. This prime function is to act as a watchdog for the people, and to bark like a boxer, doberman or fox terrier whenever somebody appears to be conspiring to put something over on said people.

The press' function definitely is not to wait until politicians have cooked up some injurious scheme and flashed it on the people as an accomplished fact.

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE

OUR Washington Bureau exposed the plan (peacetime censorship) in a story published in the Sunday Tribune Oct. 19. Since then—

The directors of the American Society of Newspaper Editors have condemned this attempt to "place even the ordinary affairs of federal civilian agencies beyond public scrutiny."

The president-elect of the Associated Press Managing Editors' Association, Stanley P. Barnett of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, has pointed out the danger in it.

John S. Knight, editor of the Akron Beacon Journal, who was one of the top men in the Office of Censorship in World War II, has urged that such an order "be opposed with all the vigor and indignation that the American people can muster."

David Lawrence, writing from Washington, has said the directive is evidence of the growing influence of the "military mind" in American government.

But even in its amended version . . . Washington newspaper men still regard the order as an unprecedented attempt to bottle up news and information at the source.

WASHINGTON STAR

THE Security Advisory Board of the State-Defense Co-ordinating Committee has shown good sense in eliminating from its proposed draft of Federal security regulations phraseology which could have become an "iron curtain" for blundering or faithless bureaucrats.

Why such far-fetched provisos ever were seriously considered for inclusion in the new security guide is yet to be explained. The

Washington Tour Of Tomorrow?



Ed White, Akron Beacon Journal

regulations were drawn up by a board appointed in accordance with recommendations of the President's Loyalty Committee which found that a uniform classification of "top secret," "secret," "confidential" and "restricted" material was necessary for guidance of the Federal agencies. There was no suggestion in the report of the President's committee, however, that the classification be extended to matters which might reflect on the prestige of an agency or official.

For some reason not announced, the Veterans' Administration adopted the proposed regulations—including the objectionable provisos—in advance of their approval by the President. This agency should lose no time in following the example of the Security Advisory Board in deleting the criticized portions of the code.

TOLEDO BLADE

THE ASNE doesn't question the basic intent of the loyalty order . . . but it takes objection to the provision which would classify as confidential information anything which would cause "administrative embarrassment or difficulty."

Certainly the protests of our representatives in United Nations against Government interference with freedom of the press and other information media have a hollow ring when the Government they represent imposes its own restrictions on that freedom.

KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

PRESIDENT TRUMAN and his Security Advisory Board have a tough job when they undertake to decide what kinds of official information the Government shall withhold from the public.

In this critical time, we think it is essential to safeguard information which, if disclosed, would endanger America or give advantage to a foreign nation.

We can understand the necessity for safeguarding certain official secrets in the State Department, the Atomic Energy Commission, the military agencies and perhaps a few more. But we see no excuse for the secrecy regulations already in effect in the Veterans Administration. And, so far as most other Federal departments and bureaus are concerned, we believe that the less authority they are given to keep information from the public the better it will be for the country.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

(The Editor's Notebook)

QUITE RECENTLY, the American Society of Newspaper Editors protested against an attempt to bottle up news by a regulation which had already become effective within the Veterans Administration.

While this protest resulted in changing the language of the regulation and in personal assurances from President Truman that no censorship of civilian agencies was intended, the fact is that even under the revised regulation a government employee can be dismissed for disclosing information that proves "embarrassing" to a higher individual in the government.

DETROIT FREE PRESS

THE President's Security Advisory Board has cooked up its own edition of the Sedition Act of 1798 . . . The American Society of Newspaper Editors and other parties denounced this as a "gag rule" . . .

Security is one thing. Withholding from the public information to which it is entitled is another. The SAB's program of concealment should be further modified before President Truman approves it.

WILMINGTON NEWS

PROGRESS can be reported in the campaign started by the directors of the American Society of Newspaper Editors to alter the proposed security regulations covering the handling of government regulations . . .

Worthwhile concessions have been made to the argument that the public is entitled to as much information about the government as can be disclosed without damage to the nation's best interests.

It is a little disquieting, all the same, to read that the security plan itself has been classified as confidential—and that some of the regulations have been kept secret. For all the public can find out, they may be as needlessly broad as those that have been corrected by criticism.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

THE ASNE would have been negligent if it had waited until the army-inspired censorship order was an accomplished fact. The order itself could have been classified, in which case its publication would have been the grounds for action against some federal employee.

What the censorship scheme contemplated was a violation of the first amendment to the constitution.

PERTH AMBOY NEWS

AS A RESULT of the editors' fight, important modifications have been announced in the suggested standards prepared by the Security Advisory Board . . .

The board no longer holds that information "prejudicial to the interests of any individual" shall be confidential, but only information that would cause "unwarranted injury to an individual." That is slightly better, although the decision on what is warranted or unwarranted injury should be left to the judgment of the men of the press without the help of a government functionary.

Host to French Ambassador

ON A VISIT to Alabama, Henri Bonnet, French ambassador to the United States, and Mme Bonnet, were house guests of Harry M. Ayers, editor and publisher of The Anniston Star. Col. and Mrs. Ayers gave a luncheon for a hundred guests in their honor.

Howard Names Editors to Serve on Seven 1948 Pulitzer Juries

Public Service

Malcolm W. Bingay, Detroit Free Press

John H. Crider, Boston Herald

Local Reporting

James M. North, Jr., Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Frank Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial Appeal

National Reporting

Carl D. Groat, Cincinnati Post

Burrows Matthews, Buffalo Courier-Express

International Reporting

Barnet Nover
Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune

Editorials

Stephen C. Nowland,
Indianapolis News
Melville Ferguson,
Philadelphia Bulletin

Cartoons

Marvin H. Creager,
Milwaukee Journal
Verne Joy, Centralia Sentinel

Photography

Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun
Herbert Corn, Washington Star

J. L. McGovern Honored At 78th Birthday Party

FRIENDS and colleagues of James L. McGovern, associate editor of The Bridgeport Post and Telegram, celebrated his 78th birthday, Nov. 13, at a luncheon at the Algonquin Club in Bridgeport.

Mr. McGovern, a charter member of ASNE, and currently president of the Connecticut circuit of the Associated Press, is one of the oldest active newspapermen in the country.

Among the congratulatory messages he received were ones from President Truman, former Postmaster General James A. Farley, and our own F. A. Miller, editor of the South Bend Tribune, a rival for the title of "dean of newspapermen." Last June Mr. McGovern attended a dinner in South Bend given in honor of Mr. Miller's 60th anniversary with The Tribune.

Quite evidently "a good time was had by all." Beginning as a luncheon, the McGovern celebration did not break up until early evening.

Rooms at Statler Reserved

BLOC accommodations have been arranged at the Statler in Washington for the convention, April 15, 16 and 17, 1948. Members will be notified through The Bulletin when it is time to make individual room reservations.

Letters to Editor

YOU SURE did me wrong in The Bulletin. I didn't say St. James version of the Bible. I said King James. I will probably sue you for libel.

RALPH COGHLAN,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

★ ★ ★

I FOUND the last convention of the ASNE one of the best I have attended, one of the most interesting, and productive in ideas.

However, as the resolutions go out as the considered judgment of the convention, I feel ample time should be given for discussion of them. I would suggest it might be a good idea to get the Resolutions Committee off to a flying start at the beginning of the convention, and if possible to have the resolutions reported in on the second day.

GEORGE E. STANSFIELD,
The Hartford Courant.

(President Howard has decided that resolutions from three sources—the Board of Directors, the committee and the membership—should be brought in at the first session, acted on Saturday morning.)

I BELIEVE that the real threat to press freedom lies not in abuse or overuse of a great privilege for which newspapers are trustees, but, rather, in a failure to use it fully.—Vincent S. Jones, Utica Observer Dispatch and Press, in The Torch, April, 1945.

Purposes and Value of U.S. Commission For UNESCO Are Described by Canham

• By ERWIN D. CANHAM, Editor, Christian Science Monitor, Chairman, ASNE Committee on Freedom of Information

IN A PREVIOUS issue, I told of the recommendations looking toward ASNE's in other countries—and some kind of co-ordinating international organization—which resulted from the meeting at Unesco House, Paris, of the Commission on the Free Flow of Information. Now let me describe the United States National Commission for Unesco, on which I serve at President Forrest's original request.

The National Commission is a statutory body of 100 Americans, set up by Act of Congress. Its job is to advise the State Department—and to inform our fellow-Americans—on the task of making peace in the realm of thinking. This fancy phrase comes from the opening words of Unesco's Constitution: "Since wars are made in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." Unesco is based on the awareness that politicians and diplomats alone cannot make peace—that peace must really be made deep down in the thinking of peoples.

To get at that thinking, Unesco proposes to open up a host of channels of mutual experience, through which peoples can speak a common language. Thus it facilitates contacts and exchanges of newspapermen, of educators, of natural scientists—indeed, of men in any of the broad fields pertaining to education, science, and culture.

This is a tremendous project. If it is to succeed it must be practical, and it must penetrate to the grass roots. That is why the U. S. National Commission was organized—to bring together a representative cross section of America which could do two things: ride herd on the State Department in its administration of Unesco affairs, and carry the

idea of Unesco right back to the American people.

The National Commission is already the most remarkable single synthesis of American interests that has ever been formed. It includes representatives of everything you can think of: newspapers, through ASNE and NEA; a wide variety of educational organizations; labor organizations; church organizations; farm organizations; business organizations; women's organizations; the natural scientists; the social scientists; the creative arts. Sixty of its 100 members are delegates of such organizations. The remaining 40 are distinguished citizens in their own right, or representatives of national or local government.

The National Commission has already held three meetings of its own, plus a general conference which some thousands of interested Americans attended, plus a regional "grass roots" conference in Denver in which other thousands participated.

On the one hand, the National Commission constitutes a kind of "people's diplomacy". We advise the State Department on the personnel of the American delegations to Unesco meetings, and we criticize—sometimes very severely—Unesco's world programs. There are tremendous implications in this idea of people's diplomacy. It is a link—and a lever—between the State Department and well-informed, representative Americans which can be of historic value.

And on the other hand, the National Commission carries back to the American people a tangible program of things the man in the street can do to contribute to peace. How many Americans, every day, cry out: "What can I do?" If you want to give them an answer, I recommend the simple little pamphlet: "Unesco and You," published by the State Department but distributed already in millions by several private organizations.

Obviously, for peace to be made in the realm of thinking, this same kind of work must be done in other countries. There it is

only just beginning. Most of these countries are exhausted—preoccupied with mere existence. But the U. S. National Commission is a model on which several of them are setting up comparable organizations.

To newspapers, Unesco has this significance: it puts greatest emphasis on the mass media. It is committed to the most vigorous program of freedom of information. It cannot itself lift existing political barriers, but it can advance many practical steps within these barriers—as outlined in my first article.

It is my conviction that Unesco is potentially more significant than its parent, UN, and especially to newspapers. I think it can do more to help free the flow of information than UN can do. It goes much deeper than UN into the causes of war and censorship and restriction.

Russia is not a member of Unesco. But through Unesco we can make—and have made—a number of apertures in the iron curtain. More immediately, we can draw the non-Communist nations together. Through Unesco, newspapermen can talk and work and plan together. Similarly, educators and scientists and businessmen and technicians of all fields can find a common forum. It is a true vehicle for peoples speaking to peoples. It is an ideal that has already taken some practical shape.

Editorial Session Planned For Convention Program

WITH plaudits for the editorial page panel at the last convention still ringing in their ears, the directors, at their Cleveland meeting, planned in some detail a similar, all-day session at next April's meeting.

One convention session will be required to cover reports of chairmen of various activities in which the Society is now engaged. The question of off-the-record sessions came up again, with the directors divided as to their value. Also discussed were the annual evening with congressional leaders, and what place presidential timbers should have on a convention to be held a few months before the national conventions. When time ran out, such problems were tossed, undecided, into the lap of the program chairman, B. M. McKelway of The Washington Star.

Arthur Krock Recalls Society's Early Years

(A charter member of the Society, Arthur Krock later became ineligible and recently was elected for distinguished service to journalism.)

THE HIGH professional honor which the ASNE has paid me is enhanced by the fact that it carries readmission to a group and to an enterprise with which I was formerly associated and in which, now as then, I am deeply interested. The progress ASNE has made since I was one of its organizers and a member of its first Board of Directors represents one of the notable steps in American journalism.

I recall that at one of our first meetings, when a resolution of censure was proposed against certain perverters of responsible newspaper work, publishers by function, it was argued that we—a group of employees—should not so commit those by whom we were employed. I lost a good deal of interest in ASNE as a result and, when a temporary lapse in my newspaper connection made me ineligible for membership, I did not grieve.

Since that time, however, ASNE has accepted its full responsibility to the public and its members have asserted their status as free and representative editors. What the infant organization did not venture to attempt, the mature society has effectively done; and many more affirmative undertakings for the advancement of a journalistic code.

My only concern is that I may suffer the penalties of the Constitution before the ink on my "pardon" is dry. I notice that this Charter requires dutiful attendance at the annual conventions, which are held in Washington where I work. And very often there are successive days in Washington when I am bound steadily to my bench. If these coincide with the ASNE convention week I shall be thrown out again, I fear. But even so the reunion, and the basis on which it was effected, has gratified me beyond measure.

—ARTHUR KROCK.

FOR MEMBERS who check off their calendars in advance, the 1948 convention will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 15, 16, 17, in Hotel Statler, Washington.



ARTHUR KROCK

Burnett of Peoria Flies for Relaxation

THE managing editor of The Peoria Journal-Transcript has one firm conviction: Reporters are the lifeblood of newspapers.



ARNOLD BURNETT

"The rest of us are just auxiliaries to the reporters. We implement their work," he says. "If you have good reporters, you have a good newspaper—and on the Journal we have darned good reporters!" Arnold Burnett has been in newspaper work for about 18 years. He worked on papers in Connecticut, New York, Washington, Baltimore, Oklahoma City, and Miami, where he was with John S. Knight's Miami Herald for more than three years. In connection with his newspaper work, Mr. Burnett also has done a considerable amount of broadcasting, but doesn't worry about radio very much. "You can't replace the printed word, the fact frozen into type, with a momentary impression on the ear," he says.

For relaxation, he occasionally flies (he holds a private pilot's license). He is a Mason, and first past master of a Miami Masonic lodge.

From Native Texan To Florida Cracker

A TEXAN by birth (Dallas, Aug. 18, 1913), Thomas W. Hagan was graduated from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Journalism degree, worked for three months, in 1933, on the Dallas Morning News. Later that year he went to the Miami Daily News as a cub reporter, moved on to county correspondent, real estate editor, Sunday editor, and up to assistant managing editor.



THOMAS W. HAGAN

Meanwhile, filled with an urge to see Europe before war wrecked it, he took three months leave of absence, in 1937, to tour the continent and the British Isles.

In the fall of 1941, Hoke Welch, managing editor, asked how he'd like to go to Washington. In those days of tension it sounded like an interesting assignment and Mr. Hagan accepted, arriving on the day Congress declared war on Japan.

Returning to Miami in September, 1946, he was made editor of the editorial page. He also writes a daily column for the page.

Having swapped inflation value in a Silver Spring, Md., home for inflated value in a Miami home (plus \$3,000), to house his family—Mrs. Hagan, and two sons, Tommy, four, and Mickey, two—he is now concentrating on becoming a Florida cracker.

Schenectady Staff Members Study Other Papers Regularly

JAMES R. DORAN, executive editor of the Schenectady Union-Star, has assigned all editorial staff members to study other newspapers regularly, an idea he picked up from the Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman. While some suggestions they make as the result of their reading will be developed eventually for The Union-Star, it was done more with the idea of forcing the staff to read other newspapers.

"I also have put them to studying Rudolf Flesch's 'The Art of Plain Talk,'" says Mr. Doran.

Secretary Reports On Resignations

THE SOCIETY has lost six members since Secretary Dwight Young's last report. Of these three resigned due to ineligibility. Donald D. Hoover has left The Indianapolis Times to become eastern manager of Bozell & Jacobs, advertising agency, with headquarters in New York.

Mr. Hoover writes: "I leave the newspaper business for the same reason I did once before . . . purely economic. I do so with deepest regret and with great admiration for the guts and integrity of the Scripps-Howard papers."

Barnet Nover, formerly Washington Post, is now spending his entire time on his syndicated column on foreign affairs.

Ernest Kirschten, who joined ASNE as editorial page editor of the St. Louis Star-Times, is now on the editorial staff of the Post-Dispatch.

B. D. Donnell, editor of the Wichita Falls Times, tendered his resignation because he has been unable to attend conventions or take part in other ASNE activities.

Lloyd Laprade did not return to the Durham Herald on his return from overseas war service, apparently has left newspaper work and consequently has been stricken from the newspaper list.

In accordance with the by-laws, George M. Cox, Mobile Press and Register, has been dropped for non-payment of dues.

Committee Is Seeking Qualified Candidates

THE FIRST half of his work completed with the election of 27 new members at the Board meeting in October, A. M. Piper, membership chairman, again is on the look-out for eligible candidates. Applications submitted in the next few months will be voted on by mail ballot just before the April convention.

Under the by-laws, many newspapers are entitled to more members than they now hold. While the limit is one to a paper in cities of 50,000 to 75,000 population, two memberships may be held by staff members of one newspaper in cities between 75,000 and 100,000 population. Over 100,000, the limit is four.

In determining population categories, particularly for the 50,000 population class, the Board uses

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(August 1, Through October 31)

BALANCE (Aug. 1)
Riggs National Bank ..\$13,177.29
U. S. Savings Bonds.... 2,500.00
Troy Savings Bank.... 2,001.96

RECEIPTS
Dues from members... 435.00
Bulletin subscriptions .. 12.00
Sale of Proceedings.... 22.00
Miscellaneous 16.63

\$18,164.88

DISBURSEMENTS
Officers' expenses 112.96
Officers' secretaries .. 240.65
Bulletin (including salary of Assistant Secretary) 1,857.40
Proceedings, printing and other expenses 1,575.57

\$ 3,786.58

BALANCE (Oct. 31) \$14,378.30

★ ★ ★

ALEXANDER F. JONES, treasurer, presented his semi-annual report to the Board in Cleveland.

President Howard's expressed satisfaction that the Society is still solvent was blasted when Mr. Jones explained that the only additional source of revenue until next year is payment of dues by five members who are now delinquent. Meanwhile, routine expenses go on.

The Board voted another \$400 to the ACEJ towards accrediting schools of journalism. It increased the salaries of the secretaries to the president, secretary and treasurer, to \$40 a month.

On the convention, Mr. Jones

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD *Cleveland Star*

1st VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN D. CANHAM *Christian Science Monitor*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
B. M. McKELWAY *Washington Post*

SECRETARY
DWIGHT YOUNG *Dayton Journal-Herald*

TREASURER
ALEXANDER F. JONES *Washington Post*

The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

WRIGHT BRYAN *Atlanta Journal*
RALPH COGHLIN *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
VIRGINIUS DABNEY *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
WILBUR FORREST *New York Herald Tribune*
OVETA CULP HOBBS *Houston Post*
JOHN S. KNIGHT *Knight Newspapers*
DAVID LAWRENCE *United States News*
HAMILTON OWENS *Baltimore Sun*
DWIGHT PERRIN *Philadelphia Bulletin*

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7256.

No. 292 December 1, 1947

pointed out that the Society lost a little on the 1947 banquet gained on the luncheons, came out only \$234.79 ahead on the whole show — but the cost of next year's meeting inevitably will be higher.

By unanimous vote the price of 1948 banquet tickets was raised to \$10. The price includes the traditional cocktail party.

Charter Members: Attention!

MINUTES of early Board meetings mention 94 as the number of charter members, but list only 62. Embarking on an attempt to fill the gap, Secretary Dwight Young would appreciate hearing from any member who recalls charter members not listed in the March 1947 Bulletin.

Weather News Concentrated

"WE are concentrating our weather news on page one," T. C. Harris of the St. Petersburg Times reports, and sends along a sample. Everything (except sun and tides) is included under a two-column head—state and local forecasts, a chart of the previous day's temperatures, and the high and low in 50 cities. Illustrated with a pelican weather bird, the feature runs two columns six inches deep.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

January 1, 1948

No. 293

Editors Should Be Neither Mad nor Smug In Face of Rising Chorus of Criticism

By JOHN H. CRIDER, Editor-in-Chief, The Boston Herald

WITH some reluctance I put fingers to keys to quiet that relentless lady, Alice Pitts, who has been after me for many months to make a debut in The Bulletin. It is exactly one year since I became editor of a metropolitan daily after close to twenty years as correspondent and reporter, so perhaps this is the occasion for a few observations.

What most impresses me is the rising chorus of criticism of the daily press, not so much from readers as from so-called professional critics. What impresses me even more is how much more conscious I am of this criticism than when I was a reporter and correspondent. Even worse, I feel a new defensive streak in my system which I am not sure is altogether wholesome, but there it is, bedeviling me most of the time.

The causes of this somewhat changed attitude include not only the fact that my position is a more responsible one, but also that anyone with a sense of good sportsmanship resents unfair criticism and kicks below the belt. Worst of all, when conscientious folk are accused of not being responsive to their obligations, blood does boil.

But while I have had this reaction, I have also had another one, difficult to express. Carefully reading the Hutchins Commission reports, the new dreamboat book on the press by nine Nieman Fellows, and having heard Comrade Vishinsky unloose his blasts, I have a feeling that we as responsible members of the press have been failing to make clear why we act the way we do. In feeling that we should do more to state our case, I am very conscious of the fluent state of the world today.

Anyone who kids himself that "freedom of the press" is a Maginot Line behind which he will be safe from both criticism and change, is living in as much of a dreamworld as those diehard Hooverite businessmen who feel certain that the conditions of the 1920's will surely return.

Readers themselves are not overly critical. The intelligent ones who expect more than can be delivered are quick to admit when they get the facts that they did not understand the conditioning factors of our operations. But readers are being stirred up. Many of them don't understand, but react spontaneously to attacks on any established institutions.

Gentlemen like Prof. Chafee at Harvard, vice chairman of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, are well-intentioned and hate the idea of a state-owned or controlled press, yet they have such sport in deriding us that, perhaps unconsciously, they may be paving the way for what they deplore between their attacks. One night recently I heard him get a big crowd of students in hysterics by a crack about how the only thing besides the press still unregulated in America was the churches. This may be funny, but it is dangerous, too.

Finally, I would agree with most ASNE members that the criticisms to date have been mighty weak, deeply reflecting a lack of knowledge of the realities of newspaper operations. But I think the quality of the attacks should have little to do with our reactions. We should be neither mad nor smug. We should act intelligently and constructively—perhaps make our very excellent Canons of Journalism something besides pretty words to frame and hang on the wall; perhaps recognize and do something about the fact that most of our critics know little or nothing about the practical aspects of publishing and editing as they exist under



JOHN H. CRIDER, for ten years expert on economic affairs with the N. Y. Times, Washington Bureau, now Editor-in-Chief of the Boston Herald.

the highly varied conditions of different communities; or maybe do a little institutional advertising. There is a mighty lot of dreaming and nonsense in the new book, "Your Newspaper," by Nine Nieman Fellows, but when they say the press faces two eventualities, "responsibility or regulation," they may have something.

Books like "Your Newspaper" and "A Free and Responsible Press" do a great deal to bring the day closer when we might have a regulated press. Criticism is of the very essence of a democratic society. As newspapers, we thrive on it. Yet criticism, however unsound, can only lead to regulation in the current state of institutional flux if the criticized remain indifferent; or if they are only defensive rather than corrective. One has only to recall how banks, and railroads, the Stock Exchange, public utilities, and so forth, reacted during the periods of criticism preceding regulation to realize how suicidal it may be simply to laugh off our critics. It is this that worries me.

'YOUR NEWSPAPER' by Nine Nieman Fellows Heartily Applauded By Four ASNE Members Who Also Had Their Year at Harvard

By FRANCIS P. LOCKE, Associate Editor
Dayton Daily News

ONE OF the things a teacher on sabbatical or a newspaperman on a Nieman Fellowship gets is perspective. These nine Nieman Fellows of the class that immediately preceded mine did their profession a real service by bringing it into the center of their new frame of reference. It would be a good thing if publishers and editors as well as working newspapermen could spare a year from the front lines of battle and make, so to speak, unhurried aerial reconnaissance.

"Your Newspaper" is beyond question a thoughtful and honest report. It abounds in zeal and it is likely that some of its recommendations are impractical. At least, the Niemans were not deterred from drawing a "design for a daily" by the fact that no two persons can be expected to agree to every line of such a blueprint any more than a man and wife can be in complete accord on the size and location of every closet in an architect's plan for their new house.

The book is brave and it is constructive. I have had enough experience with the technique of discussions at the Nieman seminars and dinners to know that this is a thorough, patiently built up, vigorously checked and cross-checked concept. After persistent inquiry into the views of Joseph Pulitzer, Barry Bingham, Mark Ethridge, Erwin Canham and others of their caliber, the authors might produce a design that was faintly utopian but certainly not one that was even close to half-cocked.

Although the book says some things that will be unpalatable and a few things that may be unfair to many editors and publishers, it is not in either spirit or emphasis the work of muckrakers. The front office will, I hope, do a better job of meeting gentle criticism half-way than it did with the report of the Hutchins Commission.

There seems to be no escape from the authors' conclusion that "the press, as we see it, faces two eventualities: responsibility or regulation." This is the warning

the myopic ignoring of which has brought uncomfortable days upon certain other quasi-public institutions, notably labor unions and stock exchanges. Happily, because of our wholly proper national reverence for the first amendment, the men who put out American newspapers still have time to tighten up their sense of trusteeship before real trouble comes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By JOHN F. DAY, Managing Editor
Dayton Daily News

EVERY editor and publisher in the land would do well to read "Your Newspaper."

Not, certainly, because these nine Nieman Fellows of 1945-46 are in any sense infallible or because they have evolved a magic formula for creating a press renaissance. But because the vast majority of their criticisms are well founded and, more important, because most of their recommendations are sound.

As Louis Lyons points out in his introduction, the book was written before release of the Report of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, and "it is worth noting that a group of working newspapermen came to essentially the same conclusions as the Commission whose members were from other professions."

It is worth noting, too, that their conclusions are far more clearly presented, and they have suggestions to offer on how shortcomings can be met. It is to be hoped that editors won't take the childish defensive attitude some of them took toward the Commission's report.

I doubt that any editor will agree with all that these nine ex-Niemans have to say (in the matter of advertising, for instance, I think they are naive), but few of their points can be termed extreme.

I am struck, indeed, by the fact the Commission on Freedom of the Press, the American Press Institute at Columbia and the Nieman Fellows are in basic agreement. That, to me, has good portent for the future of the American press.

By HODDING CARTER, Editor
Delta Democrat-Times
Greenville, Miss.

I MIGHT have been less receptive to "Your Newspaper; Blueprint For a Better Press" had I not attended within recent months a state and regional convention of fellow publishers. Perhaps at each I missed some session devoted to the problems and challenges of a newspaper in respect to its news reporting and editorial functions. As it was, most of what I heard was strictly box office. Except that the discussions were in terms of costs per page, circulation practices, rates per line and the ITU, I found little to distinguish these gatherings from a grocers' convention.

As the Niemans say, journalism is a profession controlled by a business, and those who do its professional work are employees subject to the business management. Thus, with some notable exceptions, newspapers do consider editorial costs as something to be endured but not encouraged. However, all weaknesses are relative. In contrast to the press of the rest of the world and even to our own over-hallowed journalistic past, today's newspapers are, in general, impartially informative and are improving through self-examination. On the other hand, publishers are often more thin-skinned than their editorial targets. It is to be hoped that resentment of criticism does not blind us to this conscientious study of our faults by nine imaginative and mature students who realize with us that "what your press may become lies in the hands of the American people, its ultimate trustees."

EDITOR'S NOTE:

When John Crider referred to "Your Newspaper" as "the dreamboat book", the four other Nieman Fellows in the Society were asked for their reactions. Other ASNE members are invited to submit their opinions for the next issue, deadline January 15.

'PUBLISHERS' TEXTBOOK'

By HARRY S. ASHMORE
Editor of the Editorial Page,
Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock

H. L. MENCKEN has suggested that what American journalism really needs is a school for publishers. If such an institution is ever founded, nine Nieman Fellows have provided an ideal textbook for the primary grades.

In the best shoptalk tradition they have set forth their specifications for a newspaperman's newspaper. Since nothing like it has yet been seen on heaven or earth, their work necessarily stands as an indictment of the existing daily press.



They are self-confessed idealists (their book was conceived two years ago when idealism had not yet gone out of fashion) but they have progressed far beyond the what-happened-the-day-the-department-store-elevator-fell school of criticism. They deal extensively with the technical aspects of the admittedly difficult task of producing a complete, objective and interesting daily record of human events. And it is here that they are most effective, for they document their argument that newspapers generally have failed to make intelligent use of recent mechanical developments or of the skills of their staffs.

Inevitably they will be accused of impracticality. Certainly their dream would be truncated if it were ever reduced to the realities of the marketplace. But they have at least recognized that their newspaper must make dollars as well as sense. Their book is an affirmation of every good newspaperman's faith that a newspaper can be both honest and profitable. It deserves more than the head-butting reaction that usually greets any suggestion that the last free press on earth is something less than perfect. I commend it to the sober and thoughtful attention of every newspaperman who believes he is following a profession, not a trade.

Carolina Editor's Dreadful Discovery

By TALBOT PATRICK, Editor and Publisher
Goldsboro (N.C.) News-Argus and Rock Hill (S.C.) Herald

RECENTLY a readability survey of the Goldsboro News-Argus gave us a kick in the pants. We are now trying to improve our writing and editing to make our news matter and editorials easier to understand.

The survey was made according to the "Flesch formula" devised in the readability laboratory at Teachers College of Columbia University by Dr. Rudolf Flesch. It was made by the Division of Research Interpretation of the Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina.

Most difficult reading was wire news. This was found to be on the college reading level of the Yale Review.

Local and social news classified with the contents of Harper's magazine in high school reading ability. Most readable was social and women's news.

Editorials, sport news and local and wire features were reported comfortable reading for high school graduates. This is the Reader's Digest group.

No group of stories came into the seventh grade ability, of which Liberty is an example, or the True Story grade which can be read by people who finished grade school.

The survey made comparisons based on educational levels of readers in this area which showed our arrows all hitting above the median bull's eye.

Included among several dreadful examples in each group of stories was an editorial by me. The worst example was a wire story which rated a Flesch score of over 10. Meaning of this can be judged from the fact that 6 is considered very difficult reading, of which examples are scientific journals which require professional training in the subject field for understanding. Number 7 is difficult reading for anybody, and has to be studied to be understood. You can imagine what a waste of space it was for us to print a story about "Russia and the United States" with a rating of 10.

Next bad example was from a state capital correspondent.

Findings of the survey have been called to the attention of

state capital and Washington correspondents and the Associated Press. Each member of our local staff has gone over the survey. Each of them is writing better now.

Courtroom Photograph Ruling Pays Off in Jersey

IN APRIL, 1946, ASNE passed a resolution urging members to work out, with judges and bar associations, plans for liberalizing rules against taking courtroom pictures.

In November, 1947, the resolution bore fruit in Hoboken, N. J.

Following a raid on the club-rooms of the Mayor Fred M. DeSapio Association, the acting commander of the Hoboken Police Department declared the City Hall and Police Court off bounds to photographers. When they attempted to take pictures of the prisoners being arraigned, they were warned and sent on their way. A Jersey Journal reporter immediately took the matter up with Recorder Robert F. McAlevy, and asked permission for photographers to take pictures in the courtroom.

Mr. McAlevy recalled that more than a year ago, J. Albert Dear, editor of The Jersey Journal, had asked this privilege on behalf of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. "I granted that permission then and I have not withdrawn it," he said. "Photographers may take pictures inside the railing, provided they do not interfere with the court proceedings."

Mead's Son New Tiger Captain

EDWARD M. MEAD, 21-year-old left end from Erie, Penna., has been named captain of the Princeton University varsity football team for next year. The 6 foot, 195 pound defense specialist is the son of John J. Mead, Jr., editor and publisher of The Erie Times. Described by Coach Caldwell as "a superior end," Mead becomes Princeton's 77th football captain. He is a Marine Corps veteran and captained the undefeated Phillips Andover football team in 1944.

Members Differ on Advisability Of Mentioning Cancer in Obituaries

DECRYING the hush-hush attitude in regard to cancer, The Yonkers Herald Statesman (Oxie Reichler, editor) has announced editorially that henceforth it will print the cause of such deaths, with the permission of physician or family.

Talking and writing about cancer helps combat the disease, the editorial said, citing the case of a young woman whose family did not hide the cause of her death, and as a result many checks poured into the treasury of the Westchester Cancer Committee in her honor.

"There is no 'shame' therein," it continued; "there is, on the contrary, a tremendous value for those who survive—for the whole community and the Nation. We look forward to the time when we can print the name of a valuable citizen and say of him, 'He was cured of cancer'."

Sampling of ASNE members in regard to policy on this subject brought a wide range of reaction.

"The Nassau Daily Review-Star has always printed the fact cancer was a cause of death in stories of sufficient prominence to warrant it," reports Arthur L. Hodges, editor. "A continuous campaign is waged by the Nassau county cancer committee, assisted by the press, for early diagnosis and treatment. As a result, the country has many arrested cases, some of which, it is believed, will prove to be cures."

James H. Doran, Schenectady Union-Star, concurs. "On the matter of using cause of death in our newspaper, I have insisted particularly on the matter of cancer when the family approves it. As state chairman of the American Cancer Society publicity committee, I believe that we must erase the idea that cancer is something to be ashamed of, but rather that it is something to be dreaded."

When the cause of death is reported as cancer, the Jersey Journal publishes it, unless the family requests that it be omitted; but J. Albert Dear, Jr., editor, believes these requests will diminish as the public becomes accustomed to seeing the word in print. The Houston Press follows the same policy. George Carmack, editor,

says that because of his city's interest in cancer research—brought about chiefly through Houston's \$100,000,000 Medical Center now building—the public's attitude towards cancer publicity has changed.

The Rochester Times-Union mentions cancer when known, but not on local deaths if a request is made not to so specify. Frank Croasdale, editor of the Atlantic City Press-Union, follows the same general rule.

But many members take an opposite view, among them Jonathan Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer: "I can't remember our ever saying that a person died of cancer and I doubt that in the foreseeable future, barring a strange exception, we will do it. I am not impressed by the social significance aspect of the business. We try to run our obituary column in such a way as to please, as far as possible, the relatives of the deceased, and I think we will stick to that policy."

R. M. Hitt, Jr., managing editor, The Charleston Evening Post, writes: "It is my opinion that the grim specter of cancer already has been dragged sufficiently into the public eye and it is scaring the daylights out of a lot of people. I don't see how publicizing it in obituaries would do much to conquer the villain."

"Unless families request The Louisville Times to give cancer as a cause of death (and they don't) The Times omits it," writes A. Y. Aronson, managing editor. "Neither does it hint it as a cause by such phrases as 'incurable disease,' 'lingering illness,' etc." Mr. Aronson says that recently, on information from the state Board of Health that survivors objected, cancer along with all other causes—except violent and sudden deaths—have been omitted from vital statistics. "Why," he asks, "add to the grief and sorrow of a family by invasion of privacy?" Liberal space given to the subject generally, he says, has been enough to make the region cancer-conscious.

The Lynchburg Daily News and Advance also omits mention of any cause of death, according to Robert Glass, editor, "except in

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case of death by violence, or for some special reason peculiar to the case."

Other replies:
Herbert F. Corn, managing editor, Washington Star: "The Star has no policy except to follow the wishes of the family of the deceased. Invariably that is to eliminate the cause of death when it is cancer."

T. T. Hunt, managing editor, Beaumont Enterprise: "In this part of the country that old feeling against norating cancer still is very strong. . . . People still request that the cause of death be stated simply 'a lengthy illness' and we abide by these wishes."

Jack Foster, editor, Rocky Mountain News: "Sometimes we do and sometimes we don't, depending on the type of story. We certainly have no objection whatever to mentioning the fact that cancer has been the cause of death. Personally, we do not feel that cancer should be singled out as the one disease to be mentioned. If cancer is to be mentioned, we feel that it is just as important to mention tuberculosis, or a rheumatic heart or any other disease that has social significance."

Rosemond Goes to Newark

JAMES P. ROSEMOND, executive editor of the Syracuse Herald-Journal since 1945, has been transferred to the same post on the Newark Star-Ledger.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 294

February 1, 1948

Panel Spotlight Will Be Directed To Editorial Pages

"IF THERE is one agency which is competent to discuss the ideal and the performance of the American editorial page, it is the Society of Editors."

That's the idea, expressed by President Howard, behind the editorial page panel which will have top billing on the 1948 convention program. The Board of Directors discussed the plan at its fall meeting, decided it should be allotted a full session.

Mr. Howard has appointed an all-star panel to study and evaluate editorial pages throughout the United States. The leaders: VIRGINIUS DABNEY, Richmond Times-Dispatch, who will report on newspapers in the entire South.

JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Tulsa Tribune, for the Midwest.
LLOYD M. FELMLY, Newark Evening News, for New England and the East.

FRANK A. CLARVOE, San Francisco News, for the Far West. Resolutions and reports on ASNE activities will consume another session; and the program chairman, B. M. McKelway, is rounding up speakers and topics for the other two days.

"As the situation in Washington is changing constantly," Mr. McKelway says, "I am moving rather slowly in pinning down anything definite at this time. All of us in charge of the program are hoping to place emphasis, however, on participation by the editors in whatever discussions are arranged."

Kerney on Pulitzer Jury

JAMES KERNEY Jr., Trenton Times Newspapers, has been appointed to the Pulitzer Jury on International Reporting. He replaces Barnet Nover, who resigned from the Society when he left The Washington Post.

If You're Attending the Convention—

ROOM RESERVATIONS, for the convention in Washington, April 15, 16 and 17, should be made now. Write The Statler, Washington 5, D. C., stating that you will be attending the ASNE convention, as the hotel has set aside a block of rooms for members.

BANQUET RESERVATIONS will open next month. None will be honored sooner. In the March Bulletin, members will receive a form giving instructions for registering for the convention and ordering tickets for the banquet, Saturday evening, April 17. The price will be \$10. and the limit is FOUR tickets for each member.

Evening Newspaper Editor Indignant At Handling of Government Releases

"AFTER 25 years as managing editor of an evening newspaper, I find myself growing increasingly indignant at the way government releases are handled, especially matters going before Congress, such as Presidents' messages," Harold Wheeler of the Boston Traveler wrote President Howard in December. "I boiled over when the Truman abstract (on the Marshall Plan) came in on both the AP and UP wires saying that it would be released shortly after noon. Then messages kept coming of delays and at long last a release. As you probably know, we would not have had the release when we did had it not been for Senate President Vandenberg."

An AP dispatch, Mr. Wheeler continued, reported that Senator Vandenberg explained to the Senate that it was necessary to release the message in time for afternoon editors although actual reading would be postponed until action was completed on foreign aid appropriations. Reading in the House also was delayed. Newspapers got the release by 2:46 only because of Senator Vandenberg's intervention.

Mr. Wheeler wired his appreciation to the Senator, pointing out that such delays occur time and again and suggesting that "practically all releases, presidential or otherwise, could be timed for automatic release."

In reply, Mr. Vandenberg explained that "the difficulty in the

present instance was that we had all agreed not to release the message until we were through with the short-term legislation lest the former complicate the latter in the closing hours of the session." But he added that there is much to be said in favor of automatic release.

Thus encouraged, Mr. Wheeler wrote the ASNE president, "Why can't our Society do something about it?"

But what? Possibly a resolution, Mr. Howard pondered, and put it up to Richard Clarke, New York Daily News, resolutions chairman. Mr. Clarke thought the purpose might be accomplished by drafting a petition to the White House, signed by a sizeable number of members.

Final decision, Messrs. Howard, Clark and Wheeler concurring: Put the matter up to the membership for discussion in the Bulletin.

RESOLUTIONS can be handled in more orderly and intelligent fashion if members will submit their suggestions to the chairman, Richard W. Clarke, Executive Editor, New York News, well in advance of the convention.

The ideas submitted can be of a very general nature, as Mr. Clarke will do whatever research is necessary.

CORRECTION AND AMPLIFICATION

George Healy Explains To A. J. Liebling Why Some Events That Are News in Mississippi Aren't Worth Printing in Boston

In "The Wayward Press", New Yorker for January 3, A. J. Liebling expressed puzzlement and distress over the way the nation's newspapers neglected a story about several animal laws passed by the Mississippi legislature, including one establishing a secret bureau of investigation. He concluded, "If editors the country over had this story and rejected it . . . then the national press is in a low state of health . . . If the story never came over the press association wires . . . somebody ought to begin mending that fine-mesh news net."

So we asked the editor of the one paper which played the story to Mr. Liebling's satisfaction (front page, several days) what he thought about it.

• By GEORGE W. HEALY, JR.,
The New Orleans Times-Picayune

I AM NOT nearly as concerned because the twenty newspapers read by Mr. Liebling of the New Yorker didn't give the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation the play we gave it as I would be if every newspaper in the country had put this story on page one.

Second-guessing editors is easy. I'm surprised anyone can get paid for it.

We thought the establishment of the MBI was a good story. As Mr. Liebling wrote, we gave it a heavy play. However, Mr. Liebling didn't tell all. We played the story heavy in editions going to Mississippi — which, as you know, is very close to us. The story didn't get heavy play in our city editions.

Obviously, the law creating the MBI can't be amended or repealed by folks in Massachusetts — or in Louisiana, for that matter. The MBI law concerns directly the folks in Mississippi. We tried to see that they knew about their law.

I'm not sure I would have carried this story at length if I had been editing a newspaper in Boston. Maybe I would have asked myself, "What's the use?" The folks in Boston couldn't do anything about it — except adopt resolutions which might prompt Mississippians to react, "Why don't you do something about Curley before telling us how to run our business?"

News, of course, is relative. What might be news today might not be news tomorrow. With a \$130,000 hold-up on our hands today, we don't consider sufficiently important to justify publication several items which would have been important yesterday.

Frankly, I don't think Mr. Lieb-

ling has put his finger on a serious trouble. Rather, I think he has emphasized a virtue of the United States press. Maybe he'd like a newspaper in New York to do just like a newspaper in New Orleans. Maybe he thinks that some master mind ought to choose what's news and what's not news for all papers, I don't.

His criticism is wholesome —

McCrea Decries the Calm Detachment Of the Verdict of the Nieman Fellows

• By ARCHIE E. MCCREA, Editor, Muskegon Chronicle

JOHN H. CRIDER is worried, as he well may be, by the indifference of newspapermen to the rising tide of criticism of the press.

A regulated press, he warns, may be the outcome, just as regulated banks, railroads, stock exchanges and public utilities have been the result of merely defensive resentment of public criticism, the First Amendment to the contrary notwithstanding.

I can be patient with the obvious bias of "A Free and Responsible Press", for the sake of its challenge to our complacency. Likewise with "Your Newspaper" and even with the sympathetic reaction of the Nieman Fellows within our own ranks of working newspaper men.

Certainly, we shall be unintelligent if we do not profit by this barrage, if we shrug it off with the same stupid incomprehension of other agencies before us, that have come awake only when it was too late to save themselves from the shackles.

What gives me concern is the apparently detached unconcern of critics, like the eminent gentlemen of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, like the Nine Nieman Fellows, like the Nieman Fellows of our own circle, even like John Crider himself.

In all of this discussion I see no evidence of comprehension of the stake in all this.

The calm detachment of the verdict of the Nieman Fellows — that the press faces two eventualities, "responsibility or regulation" — is as without comprehen-

sion, apparently, of the stark tragedy of the declaration as were the profundities of the Commission itself.

It is like saying, "democracy must find an answer to the needs of humanity or be succeeded by" — whatever other solution the prophet has in mind.

Neither freedom of the press nor democracy — the two are one and inseparable — is something to be held off at arm's length and appraised coldly, on the basis of its contribution or defects of the moment.

The issue — the only issue — is human freedom. It never will be any more perfect, any more productive of the answers, than the imperfect human beings who make up society.

But it is the fundamental of human progress, of the realization within the spirit of man of the destiny of the race.

When human freedom is gone, along with all of the abuses to which it is and will be subject so long as human beings are human, then the clock of race progress will be turning backward.

Stauffers Endow Scholarship

Oscar S. Stauffer, publisher of the Topeka State Journal, and Mrs. Stauffer have endowed a scholarship to the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas to be given annually to a graduate of Arkansas City High School, which Mr. Stauffer attended. Later he worked two years on the Emporia Gazette.

MEET EIGHT EDITORS RECENTLY ELECTED TO THE ASNE



Norman E. Isaacs



William H. Heath



William M. Reddig



Frank N. Hawkins

NEW MEMBERS have sometimes felt a bit neglected at the convention. Let's not let that happen again. Meet some of them here and greet them in Washington (red stars on their badges identify newcomers).

British-born NORMAN E. ISAACS was transported to Montreal at the age of three, moved to Indianapolis as a youth, cultivated a Hoosier accent and mien. He began newspapering on the Indianapolis Star, shifted to The Times, working his way into the managing editorship — on bluff, he claims diffidently, but it lasted eight years. For the next three he was chief editorial writer of The News. In 1946, St. Louis called and he went, as managing editor of the Star-Times.

FRANK LANDT DENNIS completed Harvard law school in the usual three years while working as night city editor of The Boston Herald. Last spring, 12 years later, he took and passed the District of Columbia bar examination. Meanwhile he had worked on the Kansas City Star and The Oklahoman and Times, and in 1939 he went to The Washington Post as city editor, has been assistant managing editor since 1940.

When he was 23, Vermont-born WILLIAM H. HEATH had been a farmer, laborer, roofer, teacher and machinist. He tried newspaper work in Manchester, N. H., and liked it. After a year on the copy desk of the Worcester Post, he went to Haverhill, Mass., as city editor of The Gazette, has been editor since 1927.

Named executive editor of the Wilmington News and Journal-Every Evening last July, CHARLES LEE REESE Jr. had been with the papers since 1927. A Wilmingtonian, he was graduated from the University of Virginia, studied at Cambridge University, then covered science news for a small syndicate in Paris. He was managing editor of Popular Radio in New York and on the staff of Time before returning to Wilmington.

On leaving high school, WILLIAM D. REDDIG selected railroad-ing for a career, went broke in Baltimore in 1922, took a job on The News, then wrote editorials for the Baltimore Evening Sun, and three years later got home to Missouri. From 1928 until last year he was literary editor and feature editor of the Kansas City Star. Last fall saw publication (Lippincott) of his book, "Tom's Tom: Kansas City and the Pendergast Legend," replete with local atmosphere from the days when fly-loo was a popular pastime, the players placing their money on houseflies and betting which would move first, how far and in what direction. Since July of last year Mr. Reddig has been editor of the Charlotte (N. C.) News. He vehemently denies the suspicion advanced by several reviewers that he fled Kansas City in advance of publication of his book.

Copy boy to publisher in less than 20 years — that's JOHN F. LUX of the Joliet Herald-News. Born in Joliet, he went to work on the local paper, chasing copy and writing squibs for the sports editor. Six months of that and he took over the sports desk. He served with the 68th Coast Artillery, A.E.F., returning to The Herald-News as a reporter. By 1932 he was editor and publisher.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, FRANK N. HAWKINS went to work as police reporter on his home-town paper, the Macon Telegraph, then was managing editor of the Macon News, later of the Augusta Chronicle. A year on the New York Herald Tribune and he returned south, writing editorials for the Atlanta Journal. Since 1946 he has been with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, now associate editor.

E. J. GERRITY has been associated with The Scranton Times more than 30 years, starting as copy boy. From reporting he went on to various desks and last May was appointed managing editor.



Frank L. Dennis



Charles Lee Reese Jr.



John F. Lux



E. J. Gerrity

Creager Declares Most Press Attacks Weak Generalities

• By MARVIN H. CREAGER,
Editorial Adviser,
The Milwaukee Journal

EDITORS are rightfully jealous of their prerogative of criticism. They are not always tolerant when the tables are turned. They have not all reacted prettily to such serious efforts as the Hutchins report or "Your Newspaper." These criticisms are not occasions for automatic indignation. They call rather for self-examination. Maybe the shoe fits some feet. I do not believe it fits many.

The weakness of the usual attacks on the press is their generality. Cases of known newspaper venality — and there doubtless are such cases — are blown up like a vest-pocket film into an overall picture. The easy inference therefrom is that the American press is in the hands of cunning little men who daily sell their souls for some favor or for a few lines of advertising which they have to leave out because of the newsprint famine.

A newspaper today represents a tremendous investment. And the experienced publisher knows that that investment is "hair hung and breeze shaken over the pits of the hell" of reader repudiation. If he loses reader confidence he is done. Is it good sense to jeopardize that investment by tampering with reader

confidence at any price? Some publishers have learned first and last that it is not. There may still be those who have not grasped the fact fully, but they will if they stay in the business.

Of course, there always is the question of editorializing and twisting the news. That is another case of whose baby has the measles. A critic rarely cries out against real or fancied partiality that favors his side. But he is quick to shout of calculated deception if it is the other way around. Doubtless there are instances of unfairness and of editorializing and it is too much to say that all are inadvertent. But it is equally unfair to charge every questionable case to malice or venality or manipulation. What I have never yet been able to get is the name and address of a Solomon wise enough to judge infallibly what is fair and what is unfair.

Probably most newspapermen are agreed as to what American paper is the greatest offender as to twisting and editorializing. At the same time I am sure that all are agreed that there is not enough money in the mint to get one line into that paper or to keep one line out. And somehow it still seems to keep its readers. Perverseness is not necessarily venality.

For forty-four years I have subsisted on newspaper earnings. I have not been aware of venality on the part of any of my employers. I have never felt like a kept man. Had I, I hope I would have tried another calling before it was too late. Yet there are those with

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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shorter experience who would have us believe that our profession is sordid barter and getting worse. I don't believe it and I doubt if they all believe it. It is reminiscent of the loose and bawling talk we used to hear in earlier days while crying in our evening beer — hear and forget.

Atomic Committee Progress Report

EVERY member of the Society's special committee on atomic information problems — Messrs. Gilmore, McKelway, Paul Smith, Wellington, Winship and Gideon Seymour, chairman — met in Washington, Jan. 12-15.

The committee conferred with the Atomic Energy Commission, stepping itself in elementary nuclear physics and probing into security and educational problems, also had sessions with Secretary Forrestal and Dr. Vannevar Bush. The members staggered home complaining, to paraphrase Errol Flynn, that they must have got hold of some bad isotopes.

A report will be formulated after members have visited the Oak Ridge plant, and the Argonne laboratories in Chicago, and Mr. Seymour and Mr. Smith have spent a day at the Hanford, Wash., plutonium plant.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

March 1, 1948

No. 295

President of The United States To Be Speaker at ASNE Banquet

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN has accepted the invitation of ASNE President N. R. Howard to be the speaker at the banquet of the Society, Saturday evening, April 17, in Hotel Statler, Washington.

While a White House conference has been a traditional feature of the annual meeting, this is the first time the chief executive has been a guest since President Hoover spoke at the banquet in 1930.

Other convention plans are well under way.

Discussion will be wide open to the membership on three major ASNE activities — the continuing campaign for world freedom of information, a survey of news disseminated abroad by the State Department, and cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission on spreading educational information regarding atomic energy. Reports by committee chairmen, in each case, will provide the background.

Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, will review his work of the past year as chairman of the ASNE committee on World Freedom of Information and as the Society's representative on UNESCO.

MAIL BALLOTING by the Board of Directors will permit election of new members in time to attend the convention — providing the names are submitted in time for screening. Members wishing to propose candidates should write without delay to the membership chairman, A. M. Piper, editor, The Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Summarizing present trends, the world over, he will make recommendations for the furtherance of ASNE's continuing campaign for freedom of information.

As chairman of the committee on World Dissemination of News, Hamilton Owens of the Baltimore Sun has done a prodigious job of surveying the character of the news emanating from the State Department and its reception overseas. He made an interim report to the Board of Directors last fall, will bring it up to date for the membership in April.

Since its appointment in November, the Committee on Atomic Information has traveled from Oak Ridge, Tenn., to Hanford, Washington, D. C., in search of enlightenment on a complex subject. Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, chairman, and a government official still to be named, will discuss the newspapers' share in spreading educational information regarding atomic energy.

One luncheon will be given over to three former regular members of the Society who, last fall, were re-elected under the Distinguished



EDITING a newspaper or running a convention, the problem is one of selection. Currently, ASNE President N. R. Howard is pondering how to trim into three days enough events to fill a week.

Service clause: J. Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor; Arthur Krock, New York Times; and Walter Lippmann, New York Herald Tribune.

Speakers for the Congressional session, which has become a fixture by popular demand, will be announced next month.

Already announced is the panel on the editorial page.

President Howard will confer with B. M. McKelway, program chairman, in Washington within the fortnight. Together they will round out the program, which will consume three full days, Thursday through Saturday, April 15-17.

Beloved and Distinguished Member Dies



JOSEPHUS DANIELS, who died in Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 15, was elected a Distinguished Service member of the Society when, retiring from the editorship of the News and Observer, he was no longer regularly eligible. Coming out of retirement when his sons joined the war effort, the former Secretary of the Navy and Ambassador to Mexico said, on his 80th birthday:

"Three of the boys were running the paper and I thought it would be quite a chore to do their work. The boys had me fooled. I do not have any trouble at all doing the work all three of them were doing."

Mr. Daniels was a beloved and colorful figure at ASNE conventions, in which he took an active part. The picture was taken at the 1947 meeting.

TIME NOW TO MAKE YOUR BANQUET RESERVATIONS

BECAUSE the Presidential and Congressional Rooms of Washington's Statler, together, seat only 1100, the Board reluctantly set a limit of four tickets per member for the 1948 banquet. This means each member may have no more than three guests.

But we're still not out of the woods. The present hope that the banquet hall will contain the guests is based on the assumption that, as in the past, some members will take only one or two guests, or even none. If everyone orders the

maximum, we're lost. Please—and the plea is urgent—order no more tickets than you ordinarily would.

Instructions for registering for the convention and ordering tickets are given in detail on the form enclosed with this Bulletin. Follow them and your badge and tickets will be awaiting you at the Statler.

Banquet seating, as always, is on a first-come, first-served basis, no exceptions, not even for directors. And the mailing of this issue has been staggered geographically to give everyone a fair chance.

Some Surprising Trends in Readership Are Revealed by Minneapolis Surveys

• By CHARLES R. CORBIN
Assistant Executive Editor, Minneapolis Star and Tribune

MEN'S INTEREST in Sunday newspaper comics has been increasing steadily in Minneapolis since the spring of 1945.

"Cheesecake" art has a greater reader appeal for girls and women than for boys and men.

Readership of sports news by Minneapolis women and girls was markedly higher in 1947 than in 1946.

During the same period a marked increase was shown in the readership of Sunday newspaper amusement news by Minneapolis women, boys and girls.

These facts, and many others, have been culled from the volumes of chartbooks and summaries and from the stacks of labelled papers which contain the findings of the continuing readership surveys which have

been taken periodically by The Minneapolis Star (evening) and The Minneapolis Tribune (morning and Sunday) since 1944. The earlier surveys covered adult readers only, but since 1945 the readership habits of teen-agers have been similarly scrutinized.

The Minneapolis Star and Tribune readership surveys are made by the research division of the school of journalism at the University of Minnesota. A representative cross-section of the newspapers' circulation is set up, interviewers are hired and instructed, and the survey findings are tabulated by the research division staff. The newspapers could not influence the results even if they wished to do so. Their part in the actual survey work is confined to furnishing the number of interview copies determined by Professor Ralph Nafziger of the School of Journalism and to receiving from him the tabulations and summaries.

Converting these findings into a handy form useful to the newspapers' editors in their work is begun immediately upon receipt. The readership figures for the various pages, departments, columnists, features, comics, etc., are charted on co-ordinated paper.

The resulting graphs show readership trends at a glance and make possible an accurate analysis of any changes in reader habits. The basic charts show readership figures for both men and women. Readership figures for boys and girls are charted on semi-transparent sheets which, superimposed on the adult charts, make quick comparison possible.

When a feature is consistently read the resulting graph takes one of two forms — a "saw-tooth" or an approximately straight line. (Variations of less than four percentage points are not considered significant unless they continue in one direction over several surveys).

Not all of the information contained in the survey findings lends itself readily to charting, of course. Reader interest in such staples as foreign news, Washington news, news of local public affairs, is measured by analyzing the various categories in the labelled master-copies. This requires intensive study but reveals information about reader interest and reader habits.

Not too much emphasis is placed on the specific readership figures in any one survey. But median figures, and trends determined by charting a series of surveys, are significant and can be utilized to great advantage. They are as revealing to an editor as temperature, blood count and symptoms are to a physician.

Greatest ebb and flow of reader interest is shown in such categories as the lead story page one, best news story and best picture. Our charts for these often resemble seismograph recordings of an earthquake. They also provide us with a good gauge for measuring the basic soundness of the technique which Dr. Nafziger has set up for these surveys and the conscientiousness of the interviewers he provides. For instance—

Our surveys have shown that

men's interest in pictures usually is greater than women's interest. When we charted our Minneapolis Morning Tribune survey of November 30, 1944 we found something very unusual in the best picture category. Reader interest of both men and women had shot sharply upward, but women's readership was six percentage points greater than the men's, reaching an all-time high of 98 per cent.

The picture which caused this sudden jump in women's interest? A picture of Elliott Roosevelt and his bride.

In the next survey reader interest in the best picture was around the expected figure, but in the November 1945 survey there was another jump. This time men's interest exceeded women's by eight percentage points but both were sharply up. The picture? One of a wrecked airplane which had been stunting over the city en route to a University of Minnesota football game.

Nursery school pictures and pictures of babies consistently draw greater women's interest. If they didn't we would doubt the soundness of the survey technique. But since they do, we are willing to accept unquestioningly something else the surveys consistently show — that pictures of young women in shorts and bathing suits are of less interest to males than to females. Teen-age girls are attracted most to such pictures in almost every instance.

One piece of "cheesecake" art in an early survey showed reader interest in this order: 12-through-20 girls, women, men and boys. The range was quite sharp between the top and the bottom figures.

We consider the charting of our readership findings — tedious task though it is — a highly important factor in making the surveys of genuine value. The consistently increasing men's readership of Sunday comics, mentioned at the beginning of this article, may or may not be significant, may or may not guide us in some way. It is mentioned merely as an example. A trend of real importance may be concealed in the columns of readership figures contained in summaries, reports and labelled papers. It becomes immediately apparent when a graph is made.

To Report On Ideal and Performance of Nation's Editorial Pages



MEET the members of the editorial page panel, l to r: Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune; Virginus Dabney, Richmond Times-Dispatch; Frank Clarvoe, San Francisco News; and Lloyd M. Felmly, Newark News. They are studying newspapers in every part of the country, will pull no punches in their convention reports.

Should Society Oust 58 Older Members Who Have Failed to Attend Conventions?

WHAT TO DO, if anything, about members who join the Society but do not attend conventions for years on end? That question will be decided at the spring convention, when members will vote on a change in the by-laws proposed by the Board.

An amendment adopted in 1944 reads:

"Any member elected after October 1, 1943, who fails to attend the annual convention for three successive years shall be notified of this fact and if he fails to attend the next convention, shall be dropped from membership unless retained by the vote of the officers and directors."

An amendment to that amendment would make the rule applicable to all members by deleting the words "elected after October 1, 1943."

Because there was no convention in 1945, the ruling adopted in 1944 goes into effect for the first time this year. Only one member is affected by it as it stands. The amended amendment would apply to 58 members, elected before October, 1943, who have not attended the last three meetings.

To bring out both sides of the question, before it is put to a vote, half a dozen members were queried for their reaction. Four replied, three favoring the amendment.

Wallace Odell, Westchester County Publishers: "The ASNE became what it is today because of the active interest of members who attended its sessions regularly and took a prominent part in its affairs. If a member is not interested enough to attend a meeting at least once in three years I do not consider him an asset or a help. Rather, he is dead wood and no association ever went far relying on that type of support. I think the amendment is in order and is fair and reasonable."

George Smallsreed, Columbus Dispatch: "The further amendment should be passed. Why trim out of a tree only the limbs that have died since 1943 and permit those to remain that have become dead wood long prior to that date?"

A. O. H. Grier, Wilmington Journal-Every Evening: "The pending amendment would not be unfair to any really interested member . . . The ASNE is a business organization. While it has a delightful social aspect its actual

purpose always has been to further the efforts of the newspapers to serve the best interest of the public . . . Yet I have not found any members who discount the worth of the social and fraternal aspect of the conventions. That makes a two-fold reason for endeavoring to be a regular attendant. Repeated absence seems to indicate lack of interest, except where it is unavoidable because of health or other valid reasons."

George B. Parker, Scripps-Howard Newspapers: "If the ASNE had been growing puny instead of stronger and stronger I would be for dropping those members who are apathetic about attending the conventions. But since the total of attendance has been increasing through the years, and since the work of the Society in conventions has been more and more enthusiastic and constructive, I hardly see the practicality of ousting those who don't show up." Adding that he is moved by the pragmatic thought that those who do not attend help out the treasury by paying dues, Mr. Parker concludes, "So my vote is no on the amendment."

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

HAVE YOU MADE your hotel reservation? If not, write without delay to the Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., for accommodations for April 15, 16 and 17.

What Do You Do When A Man Pleads--

Please, Mr. Editor, Kill That Story; It Would Ruin My Wife And Children

• By LYNN H. HOLCOMB
Managing Editor, Akron Beacon Journal



LYNN H. HOLCOMB

I'VE KNOWN a few editors in whom I thought the milk of human kindness was as absent as public interest in the funeral of a Tijuana Barfly. But not many.

And the hardest-boiled, I've suspected, had hearts as well as heads. Even they, I've told myself, temper their glee over a tremendous circulation - pulling story of a tragedy with a few ounces of sympathy for the victims of that tragedy.

And so - comes the question. How many editors suppress how many stories - if any - because their hearts tell them the harm done innocent people by those stories may far surpass the story's value?

* * *

He was a young fellow - about as old as I was when I first came to work for the Beacon Journal 18 years ago. His tenseness, his rapidity of speech - all told me he was under a heavy strain.

"You've got to help me. You've got to keep the story about me out of the newspaper."

It was a few days ago and the chap grasped my arm as I strode through the news room on a particularly busy morning.

"What story? What are you talking about?" I asked brusquely. I was in a rush and - well, you know, sometimes we editors think more people are trying to keep stories out of the paper than get them in.

"The story about my case in court. I forged two small checks. I made good the money. My lawyer says, as it is my first offense, he thinks he can get me off on probation."

"Well," I said, "you're lucky. But we're not in the business of suppressing stories."

"But you don't understand," he rushed on. "This story will ruin me!"

"You should have thought of that before you forged the two checks," I replied, trying to get past him, into my office.

"But what about my wife and two children? They'll be ruined, too. Our reputations won't be worth that." He snapped his fingers. "Jane - that's my wife - says she won't send the kids to school if you run that story."

"Listen, my friend," I said, some doubt still in my heart, "I'd like to help you. But, you see, newspapers have reputations, too, and so do editors. Nothing can ruin a newspaper's reputation faster than the rumor that it suppresses stories. Someone is always sure we're getting bribed, or are afraid of a big advertiser, or have one rule for the wealthy, or one for the poor, or -"

"I don't know anything about all that," said the distraught young man. "All I know is - if you run that story, my life is ruined and so is my family's."

* * *

Three days later, a rough voice over the telephone advised me that if we ran another certain story, he'd come in and shove my teeth down my throat and change my not-too-handsome features into something resembling Lon Chaney at his worst. That kind is easy - as easy as the kind who try to slip you 50 bucks. The story was on Page One the next day.

* * *

Five days later, there was another one - not so easy.

The city editor handed me a four paragraph story and said: "This guy was fined \$250 in federal court in Cleveland. The health inspectors found a rat hair in the candy suckers he makes. He wants us to keep it out."

"No dice," I said. "Run it."

"O.K.," said the city ed, not much of a softie himself. "But the guy is on his way down here and wants to see you."

"I'll see him," I said, "but it won't do him any good. Send the story on through."

"Right," said the city editor. "Oh, by the way, this is the bird who gave for free all those suckers we handed out at the Beacon Journal charity show."

By the time the candy sucker maker, whom we shall call Mr. Smith, arrived, I was all the more determined, thinking about how some of that candy we handed

out - for free - might have had rats' hair in it.

Mr. Smith was a bit of a weakling. I decided as he entered my office - with tears in his eyes - even though he runs a factory and hires 30 employees.

"I know you turned down my appeal to keep that story out about me - but listen - please - listen -"

And then he told me this story.

He once worked for a tire factory. He invented some kind of a stick for candy suckers that was pliable - wouldn't hurt a child if he fell while he had the sucker in his mouth.

He quit the tire business to make these sticks for candy manufacturers. He invested what money he had and got his friends to put up some more. But then he was sued for patent infringement and he fought the case for two years.

He needed more capital, but no one would invest in a lawsuit. So he borrowed all he could on life insurance, mortgaged his home, and started making candy suckers himself. Then the war came along and he couldn't get sugar.

To make a long story short, he had a heck of a time. And right when he started to get out of the red, someone started a dump right next to his factory. Rats came. He fought them - and the dump. But the health authorities said they found rats' hairs in some of his candy.

That was 20 months ago. Since then he had rat-proofed his fac-

tory, won his fight against the dump and says, "You could eat your dinner off my basement floor."

I called the health authorities and they verified the fact that the case was 20 months old, that his factory was exceptionally clean now - and so was his candy.

"Your facts are substantially correct," I told Mr. Smith, "but we don't suppress news. That story must run."

Tears trickled down my visitor's face and I turned my head. I don't like to see a grown man cry.

"But Mr. Holcomb," he pleaded, "my wife knows nothing about this. It will kill her if she reads it in the newspaper. And my daughter is home for the Christmas holidays from an eastern girls' school. She doesn't know either and it will crush her."

I was shaking my head again, and he blurted out:

"Do you know that I'll lose all of my customers! My business will go to smash - this business I've fought so hard to build up. My 30 employees will be out of jobs. I'll be washed up - done."

Well, that's the story. You've all heard these pleas. You've all been threatened, offered bribes, pressured by advertisers, even had your religious faith appealed to.

Perhaps few of you have ignored the threats of a mentally-unbalanced woman to commit suicide - and then have found out she carried out her threat - as I did.

But the plea: "Keep that story out of your paper" - is not new to any of us. What practise do you follow?

Liebling Follow-up

IN THE New Yorker for February 7, A. J. Liebling closed his comments on meager wire service coverage of a special session of the Mississippi legislature with a review of the AP's contrite report to members, admittedly obtained from one of his stooges.

He also quoted Talbot Patrick, publisher of the Rock Hill Herald and the Goldsboro News-Argus: "Your report should jolt wire service staff members out of a sort of hypnosis in which, while handling thousands of words in a routine way, they lose alertness for everything except surface accuracy and a chance for speed."

NEW MEMBERS AT THE CONVENTION



J. R. WIGGINS



H. P. PICKRELL

TEN years ago, at 35, J. R. WIGGINS was managing editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, later executive editor. Overseas during the war, he returned to St. Paul, briefly, became assistant to the publisher of The New York Times, and relinquished the ASNE membership he had held. Now managing editor of The Washington Post, he is back in the fold.

Beginning as part-time office boy 20 years ago, ROBERT J. ARTHUR served in practically every editorial post on Scranton newspapers, and last August was named editor of both The Scrantonian and The Tribune.

A cub on the Wichita Beacon in 1907, H. P. PICKRELL worked on newspapers in Chicago and St. Louis and went to the now defunct Albuquerque Herald in 1919. Since 1926 he has been editor of the Albuquerque Journal.

Native of South Amboy, N. J., JOHN J. McDONNELL began as a reporter on the Perth Amboy Evening News, held various desk jobs, was made city editor in 1937 and in 1942 was named editor.



ROBERT ARTHUR



JOHN McDONNELL

Caldwell Takes Issue With Healy's Views

• By ROBERT N. CALDWELL
Managing Editor, Bayonne Times

MR. HEALY'S ANSWER to A. J. Liebling won't do. The news services carry stories of quite modest local interest every day

of the year. I think with Mr. Liebling that the story has quite general appeal when one of the states passes legislation so strikingly at odds with the Bill of Rights that even its own sponsors finally get scared. At least it ought to be

able to compete with the run of commonplace wire news. It didn't. According to Mr. Liebling's findings most of the editors of the country never had a chance

to use the story because they never saw it.

Mr. Healy sets up a straw man when he says what might be news today might not be news tomorrow. That's true, of course, but it's a generalization that we'd better not crouch behind in this case. I suspect that if the members of the Association were polled we would find that most of them would have used the story if they had had it. They didn't, and I think that confirms Mr. Liebling's suspicion that there's something wrong with our fine-mesh news net.

* * *

A NEW member of the Society, Robert N. Caldwell was born in Titusville, Pa., son of William A. Caldwell, the cable editor who held the false armistice from AP wires.

A graduate of Columbia, '32, Mr. Caldwell worked on the Bergen Record, Hackensack, N. J., resigned to go into business. "A mistake" he comments tersely. He has been managing editor of The Bayonne Times since May.

EDITORS REJECT FULL TEXTS OF CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

Every Political Story Isn't Worth Page One

• By NORMAN SHAW
Managing Editor, Cleveland Press

I DON'T BELIEVE, as many editors seem to, that a political story has to be Page One, just because this is a political year. We don't need an item from each candidate each day, just because they are candidates.

Too much of our political coverage in the past has been routine and protective and the readers weren't reading it because each story looked just like yesterday's.

General Eisenhower dropping out was a whale of a story but Governor Dewey finally announcing was only three paragraphs inside.

I'm a firm advocate of highlights, as opposed to full texts. There are a hundred readers of the former to one of the latter, and only a very important speech, coming on our own time, is worth carrying every word and comma.

With space still tight we've got to watch that the opinions of our editorial writers and syndicated columnists don't add to more inches than the spot news they are commenting on.

We've got to watch, too, that the political news doesn't get spread around the inside of the paper in small batches. If we've got a hot story, we'll try to put it on Page One, and end it on Page One, with no throws. Then we'll key to one or two inside pages where other political news will be grouped.

Finally, I'll try to remember that there is a continuing interest in local and state elections, despite the national issues. This we must condense skillfully to keep it from being forced out.

★ ★ ★

Politics Must Qualify As News To Be Printed

• By A. VERNON CROOP
Assistant Managing Editor,
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

POLITICS causes us no indigestion. Truman's "State of the Nation" address was boiled to a 1½ column summary in our paper. I

THE QUESTION: With newsprint still short in a presidential election year, how are you controlling political news? To what extent will you carry complete texts after the conventions when the campaign gets under way; and what thoughts can you offer for the guidance of other editors?

Imagine that was even more than most readers could digest.

We apply the same measuring stick to politics that we use on all news. It has to stand on its merit or go in the waste basket. We have a half dozen of them—full-sized barrels—in our newsroom.

We are still short of newsprint, but news space gets first consideration over ads. This makes us determined not to waste one inch of news space. Politics has to qualify as news or it doesn't run.

And news, of course, is relative. A story might be big one day, but it might be eclipsed by several other stories if it broke another day.

★ ★ ★

Reese To Cross Bridges When He Comes To Them

• By BEN REESE,
Managing Editor,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

I HAVE not devised any plan for space control of political news and will not do so. In general, I shall cross bridges when I come to them.

To date we have made room for the text of Wallace's speech announcing his third party candidacy and for two Taft texts replying to presidential messages, especially on inflation. We regard Taft as the Republican leader in Congress on the domestic scene, generally expressing the views of the Republican majority.

After the national conventions, when the campaign jells down to two or three candidates for the presidency, we probably will carry the texts of the opening speeches of the candidates and thereafter decide whether to print texts or abstracts, depending upon circumstances and content.

Stories To Be Concise And All Kept Together

• By FELIX R. MCKNIGHT
Assistant Managing Editor,
The Dallas Morning News

TRACES of resentment by the crossroads strawchewer, the banker at the Rotary luncheon and the plant bookkeeper over national party bickering has created Texas' biggest story since the war—politics.



FELIX MCKNIGHT

And it follows that the editor inherits another headache—how to handle the mountainous story in his still tight newspaper.

The man on the Texas street sees himself in a squirrel cage with the Democrats and Republicans having political fun twirling the wheel. The \$1 butter prices, the housing tragedies, the automobiles they can't have all are very real to these folks.

So the Hughes hearings, the speculator lists and the proposed \$40. tax cuts they suspicion would bob up in consumer price jumps through increased corporate taxes are important subjects of conversation, even with the little fellows.

Space or no space, the newspapers know they face one of the biggest political years in all history because of the gravity of the situation. The Dallas News, for one, intends to go all out on every aspect of political reporting.

Texas is a traditional Democratic lair but The News has long editorially advocated a two-party system in the state. It will give equal space and editorial treatment to the Republican campaign. In fact, when handled on news values—and no other yardstick should be used in the news columns—equal play on Republicans vs. Democrats shapes up automatically. For example, when the President speaks to Congress, our Washington staff always follows quickly with a statement, speech coverage or interview with

the Republican spokesman—usually Taft.

Actually, the GOP is currently getting the breaks. We publish all statements by Taft, Stassen, et al.

It is difficult at this point to actually chart a policy on the 1948 campaign without knowing the exact nature of the campaigns to be waged. In 1944 Mr. Roosevelt made only five major speeches while Dewey was making quotable speeches almost daily. Mr. Roosevelt was President of the United States, however, and never out of the public mind.

Equal coverage to both parties should be simple if both candidates choose to actively beat the hustings. But again it appears as if the Democratic incumbent will seek election and his trips will be limited because of presidential duties.

The Dallas News plans use of full texts only on the opening campaign speeches of each nominee, unless, of course, news of transcendent importance is contained in a speech we feel warrants full text treatment for deliberate study by the reader. We feel that it is almost our duty to digest a long speech for the reader. The reading pace has been quickened and the morning newspaper reader seldom finds time to digest a four-column test.

We constantly pay heed to the business of making it easy to quickly read a morning paper. Time is precious in the early morning and intelligent editing and art display holds readers who otherwise complain "we don't have time to read a morning paper."

Two years ago The News went through one of the hottest gubernatorial campaigns in Texas history without using a single text—and we once were the "text paper" of Texas. No complaints were received.

Texas has a double-barreled political season at hand—former Governor Coke Stevenson vs. Senator W. Lee O'Daniel for Pappy's Senate seat, plus the presidential year. We expect to average five and a half columns daily for the national and state campaigns, including art. Stories of extreme significance will be broken off Page 1 to a political page.

We carried all politics on a single page in 1946 and scored our greatest success. It was all there

in one attractive package. The opinions of all candidates were side by side. It was easy reading and circulation jumped even under pinched space conditions. Stories were concise; spot staff photos dressed up the page. No jumping from page to page; just a switch of the eyes from column to column.

We intend to follow the same successful formula in 1948.

Ranch Soon Lost Lure For Walter M. Harrison

WHEN Walter M. Harrison left the Oklahoman and Times, after 30 years as managing editor, he announced that he was retiring to his ranch in Coal County, Oklahoma. But it didn't last. In a letter to The Bulletin he tells why.

"I learned to sit on my heels and talk a fair line about Royal Rupert Herefords. It was swell for a while, but the routine got very tiresome, what with contagious abortion, wood ticks, heel flies and the price of cotton seed cake. The foreman always was worrying me about the pure bred heifers that weren't springing—as if there was anything I could do about it. Finally I said the hell with this routine, sold cattle and 5,000 acres at a good profit and went back to town with my high heeled boots and a few wire cuts for pleasant reminders of a city chump who tried to go native."

After wasting some time trying to buy a small radio station or a newspaper Mr. Harrison got interested in photo-engraving as a means of by-passing the composing room in an emergency, visited several plants where that was happening. Intensive studies of new technics impressed him with the possibilities of the process and last month in an advertisement in Editor and Publisher he announced he is available as a consultant in the photo-engraving field.

Miller Has 80th Birthday

F. A. MILLER, president and editor of The South Bend Tribune, observed his 80th birthday on Jan. 31. Employees attending a dinner in his honor gave him and Mrs. Miller a radio and record player. At his desk daily, Mr. Miller still writes many of the newspaper's editorials.

John Park Is Seeking Books For German Youth

A ONE-MAN campaign to re-educate German youth through American books begun by John A. Park, editor of The Raleigh Times, is attracting national interest and cooperation.

Appalled by the complete lack of educational material, when he toured Germany last year, Mr. Park appealed to Tarheelers to contribute books for three million children in the U. S. Zone who are studying English, or trying to. The Governor and the State Department of Education lent their support to the drive and three quarters of a million volumes have been collected in North Carolina alone.

General Lucius D. Clay gave hearty approval of the plan and recently wrote Mr. Park that the first 60,000 books had been received.

Meanwhile Mr. Park went to Washington to interest President Truman in the plan. The President later was quoted as being "very enthusiastic" about it.

Since then other cities have taken up the Book Aid Program, notably Hartford, Conn., where it is being sponsored by The Times. Schools there and in neighboring cities are participating.

Sons In Weil's Footsteps

LOUIS A. WEIL has assistance as editor and president of The Port Huron Times Herald these days. When the Weil family recently purchased a large part of the Ottaway interest in the paper, son Granger became executive vice-president. Another boy, Louis Jr., has been made publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald and elected vice-president of Federated Publications.

If You Wish to Resolve—

THE RESOLUTIONS committee is still in the market for suggestions. Ideas can be handled more intelligently if they are submitted now than if they are dropped in the lap of the Resolutions chairman at the last minute.

If you have in mind some subject on which you believe the Society should take a stand, please write Richard W. Clarke, executive editor, The Daily News, New York.

also the Society's representative on UNESCO.

Hamilton Owens, chairman of the committee on World Dissemination of News, will report on his year-long study of the character and effect of news emanating from the State Department for overseas consumption. Guest speaker will be Assistant Secretary of State George W. Allen.

The third report will be made by Gideon Seymour, chairman of a committee named to discuss with the Atomic Energy Commission the subject of educational information regarding atomic energy. W. W. Waymack of AEC will share the platform with him.

A corollary problem, security in general, will be taken up at the same meeting. The speaker will be Dr. Vannevar Bush, chairman of the Research and Development Board. He will be followed by B. M. McKelway, who represented the Society on a subcommittee to consider a voluntary censorship on information vital to the national security which was formed after a meeting called in March by Secretary Forrestal. Two Washington correspondents, Hanson Baldwin of The New York Times, and Nat Finney of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, will review the complex situation from the angle of gathering news affecting security.

Progress in accrediting schools of journalism, a project of which ASNE is a co-sponsor, will be reported in panel form. Participating will be the Society's education committee, members who have served as investigators of schools seeking accreditation and the chairman of the accrediting committee of the American Council for Education in Journalism.

Other program features, previously announced, appear in the convention schedule in this issue.

At the luncheon on Thursday, at which David Lawrence will preside, the speakers will be three former ASNE members all re-elected last fall for distinguished service to journalism.

The Saturday afternoon forum on "How to Get to Press without Printers" will be conducted by Chicago members. Their names, and those of congressmen and political leaders participating in the two evening sessions, will be announced at the convention.

The concluding banquet will be preceded by the cocktail party for members and their guests.

Expulsion Ruling Strongly Protested

• By J. S. C. BUTZ, Managing Editor, Jacksonville Times-Union

To my best recollection, I was elected a member of the Society subsequent to October 1, 1943. That would make me eligible for expulsion from the organization according to the amendment adopted in 1944. (Cf. March Bulletin.) For I never have attended a meeting of the Society.

I think such a rule is an injustice to some men who belong to the Society, as well as to the Society.

I enjoy communications with the Society — The Bulletin and the report of annual meetings. I get a great deal out of this vicarious association with men with whom I would like to have closer relationship. In turn, I pay my fee.

Our political situation is such that we have a primary every April or May. I cannot leave, for the primaries down here are what the general election is to the Northern brothers. Things are decided then and the atmosphere is tense. If, and when, I get the help which will make it possible for me to get away in April, I will most certainly be on hand — provided I am allowed to retain my membership.

As I see it, I am not doing any particular harm to the Society by not attending the sessions — and the Society is definitely doing me some good by allowing me to be a member in absentia. And what is it the Good Book says about doing Good?

Of course, I imagine I can continue to handle my job without being a member of the Society, but it appears to me that the membership should indulge in a little more thought before making such a tough amendment stick — or before expanding it.

★ ★ ★

Vorpe Vigorously Objects

Protest also comes from W. G. Vorpe, Sunday and feature editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer, who, as a pioneering membership chairman, brought in more than 150 new members. Unable to attend recent conventions, Mr. Vorpe maintains interest in the Society and resents the effort "to purge" older members for unavoidable non-attendance.

Walton Describes Difficult Task On Nominations

IT TOOK 76 letters and one long distance telephone call to place this year's slate of eight candidates for election to the Board of Directors before the Society, and that's not a record by any means. This year's committee was composed of only five members whereas last year, for instance, the committee numbered ten. The remarkable thing about it all is that members of the committee are still speaking to one another.

Members of the committee, headed by W. R. Walton of South Bend, Ind., were appointed on a geographical basis and included Fred W. Stein of Binghamton, N. Y.; Talbot Patrick of Rock Hill, S. C.; Frank Clarvoe of San Francisco, Calif., and Milton Tabor of Topeka, Kansas.

In selecting its slate of nominees the committee conscientiously attempted to obtain outstanding representation from all sections of the country. Each member of the committee was invited by the chairman to submit names for consideration. The complete list was then sent to each with a request that he indicate his preferences.

That there was not always unanimity was evidenced when 13 out of 13 prospects on one list received votes. It served to prove once again that all you have to do to start an argument is to get two newspapermen together.

W. R. WALTON,
South Bend Tribune

★ ★ ★

The slate on which the Nominations Committee finally decided is presented opposite. The four directors up for re-election all were elected to the Board for the first time in 1946, — short terms because there was no convention in 1945.

At the election in April, members will vote for only FOUR directors to serve three-year terms. However, the fifth high man, when the ballots are counted, automatically fills the unexpired term of President Howard, who becomes an ex-officio member of the Board for three years.

Officers of the Society are elected by the new Board from its own body.

EIGHT CANDIDATES FOR ASNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CLAYTON FRITCHEY

CLAYTON FRITCHEY, executive editor of the New Orleans Item since 1944, and an ASNE member since that year, won Pulitzer mention and two Cleveland Newspaper Guild prizes when he was a special writer for the Cleveland Press. He went there in 1934 when Scripps-Howard sold the Baltimore Post, of which he had been managing editor. Previously he was a correspondent for Life and Time, and wrote for other national magazines.

WALTER P. JONES, editor of McClatchy Newspapers, has missed only one convention since 1936 when he joined ASNE as managing editor of the Fresno Bee. Three years later he was made editor of the group, in charge of the Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto Bees and their affiliated radio stations. On the membership committee in 1946, he was largely responsible for increasing ASNE representation from California and other western states.



VIRGINIUS DABNEY

VIRGINIUS DABNEY (Incumbent), editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and for seven years an ASNE member, is widely known for his liberal views and his campaign for better understanding of interracial problems. His by-line appears frequently in The New York Times, The Economist of London and in magazines. Last year Mr. Dabney headed the editorial page panel at the convention, and will have a major part in the program at the coming meeting.

HAMILTON OWENS (Incumbent), editor-in-chief of the Baltimore Sun and Evening Sun, joined the Society shortly after its organization. He participated in its affairs only casually until recent years, attributes his change of heart to Tom Wallace's missionary work. In 1946 he served on the Committee to Study World Dissemination of news, now heads that group. At the convention, Mr. Owens will report on his survey of news emanating from the State Department.



WALTER P. JONES



F. W. BRINKERHOFF

F. W. BRINKERHOFF joined the Society in 1944, one of five members admitted annually from cities under 50,000 population. He has been editor of the Pittsburg (Kan.) Headlight for 37 years, and for the last 21 also editor of The Pittsburg Sun. He is a director of Stauffer Publications and The Topeka State Journal. Formerly chairman of the Kansas AP, he also has been president of the Kansas Press Association and the State Historical Society.



DWIGHT S. PERRIN

DWIGHT S. PERRIN (Incumbent) went to Syracuse in January as executive editor of The Herald-Journal. He had been managing editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin since 1939, and before that assistant managing editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Earlier, he was city editor of the New York Tribune, The Herald and later of The Herald Tribune. Mr. Perrin joined the Society in 1940, has been active on committees and last year served as Nominations Chairman.



HAMILTON OWENS



WRIGHT BRYAN

WRIGHT BRYAN (Incumbent) was elected to the Society in 1940 when he was managing editor of the Atlanta Journal and has been editor of the paper since 1945. Last year he served as ASNE Membership Chairman. Meanwhile Mr. Bryan spent two years overseas as a war correspondent. Wounded and captured, he sat out the rest of the war in a German prison camp and was liberated in time to report V-E Day in a trans-Atlantic broadcast.



L. R. BLANCHARD

L. R. BLANCHARD, General Executive Editor of the Gannett Newspapers, came out of the mid-west to work for Hearst in Syracuse. He soon joined the Gannett organization, was managing editor of the Democrat and Chronicle until moving into the group's executive offices. Active in ASNE since he joined in 1934, he was Nominations Chairman in 1946. Last month saw publication of a booklet on his second post-war trip to Europe.

Pre-Convention News of Members

Judson Chapman, Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont, sends convention regrets. He's recuperating from a heart attack suffered in January and about this time expects to leave for Hollywood, Fla., to convalesce.

Also missing will be George W. Healy, Jr., who'll be sailing in the St. Petersburg to Havana yacht race and on his return will be busy on the New Orleans-Time Forum. "No loss of interest," he writes, "but I am disappointed in not being twins."

Carroll W. Binder, Editorial Editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, severe critic of Pulitzer Awards, sets forth his specific objections, citing chapter and verse, in an article in the April issue of The American Mercury.

Manchester Boddy, Los Angeles News, sends a check for two banquet tickets, "and another check for two more PROVIDING it would be possible to have them without depriving any other member of a place."

Add considerate letters, one from Frank C. Clough, Speidel Newspapers: "If there is a vacant spot with some of the old Kansas gang, that would be nice. But why not just stick me in as an 'odd one' wherever convenient? I've found that system helps one make new friends."

None of our three Hawaii members can make the convention but Harry M. Blickhahn, editor of the Hilo Tribune, will be there as a guest. Visiting the mainland, he arranged his itinerary to include the ASNE meeting.

Message from a timid member: "If possible, I would like to sit with my wife."

The friends of Jos. K. Vodrey, the Lucius Beebe of Canton, Ohio, will be pleased to hear that though fallen from grace since his promotion to business manager of The Repository, he will attend the meeting as the guest of James Kerney, Jr., Trenton Times Newspapers.

Dwight Perrin, Syracuse Herald-Journal, was critically ill of pneumonia in February, recuperated in Bermuda last month, has recovered and will attend.

Others back from vacations in time for the meeting: Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, and H. P.

Paulson, Fargo Forum, from Florida; Melville F. Ferguson, Philadelphia Bulletin, from a Caribbean trip.

Blanche Hixson Smith, Meriden Record reports "a year of ups and downs." Youngest son, with the Navy in the Pacific, contracted a tropical disease and has been extremely ill since his return. He's better now and off to Florida as she heads for Washington.

Convention 2 & A

QUESTIONS from the past week's mail, and the answers for anyone else who has wondered.

Is it too late to get hotel reservations for the convention?

No. But write without delay to Hotel Statler.

I still don't know whether I'll be able to make the trip to Washington. If I can get away, can I register and buy banquet tickets on arrival at the convention?

Yes to both questions, but the banquet seats will be well to the rear.

Are tails required when the President of the United States is the banquet speaker?

No. Tails went with the war. Black tie is correct.

Will any members wear business clothes to the banquet?

Very few; but no raised eyebrows.

Is the banquet stag or may I bring my wife?

Yes, or other ladies to the limit of three guests.

Is any entertainment provided for wives accompanying their husbands to Washington?

None. But they're welcome at open sessions if they find editors entertaining.

Do I take my personal banquet guests to the cocktail party mentioned in The Bulletin?

Positively. That's WHY you paid \$10. for tickets.

Where is this registration desk where I pick up my tickets?

On the mezzanine of the Statler. Drop in Wednesday afternoon or first thing Thursday morning to avoid the 9:30 crush just before the opening session at 10 o'clock.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT
N. R. HOWARD *Cleveland News*

1st VICE PRESIDENT
ERWIN D. CANHAM *Christian Science Monitor*

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
B. M. McKELWAY *Washington Star*

SECRETARY
DWIGHT YOUNG *Dayton Journal-Herald*

TREASURER
ALEXANDER F. JONES *Washington Post*

The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

WRIGHT BRYAN	<i>Atlanta Journal</i>
RALPH COGHLAN	<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i>
VIRGINIUS DABNEY	<i>Richmond Times-Dispatch</i>
WILBUR FORREST	<i>New York Herald Tribune</i>
OVETA CULP HOBBY	<i>Houston Post</i>
JOHN S. KNIGHT	<i>Knight Newspapers</i>
DAVID LAWRENCE	<i>United States News</i>
HAMILTON OWENS	<i>Baltimore Sun</i>
DWIGHT PERRIN	<i>Syracuse Herald-Journal</i>

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7980.

No. 296 April 1, 1948

Eleven New Members

Secretary Dwight Young reports 11 members elected by the Board by mail ballot:

E. P. MARTIN, managing editor, Casper Tribune-Herald.

JOHN G. GREEN, editor, Portsmouth (O.) Times.

ROBERT A. BARRACKS, managing editor, East St. Louis Journal.

ROGER A. CONNOLLY, managing editor, New Haven Register.

MARSHALL N. DANA, editor, editorial page, New Haven Register.

HUGH R. O'NEILL, managing editor, Manchester Morning Union.

JAMES L. MAHONY, managing editor, Manchester Evening Leader.

M. M. HARRIS, editor, San Antonio Express.

ARTHUR LARO, managing editor, Houston Post.

CLAYTON G. HORN, editor, Canton Repository.

JOHN W. HILLIMAN, editorial director, Indianapolis News.

T. M. HEDERMAN

T. M. HEDERMAN, editor and publisher of the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger, died of a heart attack on Feb. 25. Mr. Hederman, who was 68, was born in Hillsboro, Miss., and had lived in Jackson since 1894.

Frank Lee Martin Library
Walter Williams Hall

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 297

May 1, 1948

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE YEAR AHEAD

By ERWIN D. CANHAM, Editor, Christian Science Monitor
President, American Society of Newspaper Editors

THE ASNE in the year ahead will, I hope, follow the main lines so carefully worked out by a succession of great presidents and effectively supported by the membership.

We must continue our vigilance to prevent breaches of press freedom through the American government and its instrumentalities. This "watch on the Potomac," which also is a watch in every state capitol, city hall, and courthouse throughout the country, is, I believe, our most immediate challenge.

We will also continue our watch over government information services abroad to make sure they are not leading into dangerous and inconsistent practices. And we will continue our interest in atomic information, which in the coming year ought to have very practical results in the training of more and more qualified newspaper writers on the subject.

Throughout the year I hope we will not lose sight of the great value and interest of "shop talk" to improve the adequacy and responsibility of American newspapers. After all, the job of getting out newspapers is a shirt-sleeve job and progress does not lie in some vague realm. The ASNE has the primary task of helping us to help one another get out better newspapers by the vigorous and often contentious exchange of views. Every member should feel not only free but under obligation to bombard The Bulletin on all subjects of practical newspaper interest. The ASNE focus must always be chiefly on our own job in our own communities.

Having said all this, I feel free to emphasize again the great additional opportunities which are within our grasp in the international field. We have already been invited to join the International

Federation of Associations of Editors. An ASNE committee will study and recommend on this subject. This Federation offers the first opportunity that has ever existed for editors to have regular contact with one another on the international plane.

The second big international opportunity is in the proposal for an International Institute of Press and Information. The plan here is for an institute in some ways resembling the American Press Institute, but including a good deal else besides: reference libraries and sources of technical information, mechanisms for working out exchanges of working newspapermen, seminars, study groups, etc., etc. This International Institute would be entirely private, although organized with the help of UNESCO.

American representation would include not only the ASNE but, I hope, the ANPA, the ANG and other relevant organizations. I seek to organize a coordinating committee representing American newspaper organizations to talk this thing out.

In any case, there is a new and inspiring chance to take our crusade for freedom of information



ERWIN D. CANHAM

beyond the political and diplomatic arena to the field of practical, shirt-sleeve collaboration. There is a chance to help lift up the status of newspapers and newspaper editors in other countries and also to learn from their experience. I earnestly hope we will decide to proceed vigorously in this area, for I think such collaboration could at last get at freedom of information from a new and fruitful basis, and be an outstanding, long-range contribution to peace.

Report on the April Convention . . .

Four sessions daily made the annual meeting of the Society in Washington, April 15, 16 and 17, the busiest in history. It was planned that way by President N. R. Howard, who felt the membership should take a stand on projects inaugurated, in the name of the Society, by the Board.

The presence of the President of the United States lent new dignity to the concluding banquet, at which Mr. Howard handed the gavel to the incoming president, Erwin D. Canham.

Mr. Canham flew to Washington from Geneva, where he had been attending the United Nations Conference on freedom of information in time to report to the Society in his dual capacity as chairman of the ASNE committee on freedom of information and our representative on UNESCO.

In the three days, nearly 150,000 words were spoken from the platform. Some of the highlights of each session are summarized in this issue of the Bulletin.

Final Text of Resolutions Adopted

Resolutions went more smoothly than ever due to the earnest endeavors of the chairman, Richard W. Clarke, New York Daily News, who had his committee at work Wednesday night preparing resolutions and revising them for the next two days. To insure accuracy, Mr. Clarke himself typed the final copy incorporating changes made by the membership. (He's still a one-finger speed demon at the keys.) Discussion, which absorbed almost a full session, will appear in The Proceedings; the final form in which the resolutions were adopted follows:

RESOLUTION ONE

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors opposes all forms of censorship. To the end that the security of the United States may not be endangered, voluntary cooperation is urged between the press and the government covering the publication of information related to the development or use of new military weapons.

RESOLUTION TWO

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors, believing that the United States government should not ask more from other governments in the way of freedom of information than it is willing to grant, urgently requests that the State Department and the Attorney-General issue visas for entry into the United States of all bona fide correspondents from other countries who apply for such visas and are established to be legitimate professional reporters engaged solely in news-gathering activities for newspapers, news agencies and other media of mass communication. Be it further

RESOLVED: That the President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors appoint a committee to consider cases in dispute which may involve our relations with the foreign press.

RESOLUTION THREE

RESOLVED: Because of the special circumstances arising out of the present world crisis, the American Society of Newspaper Editors expresses the hope that the Associated Press and the United Press will furnish factual and adequate news summaries to

the State Department's Office of Information and Education Exchange, for the purpose of disseminating truth throughout the world. We do not suggest a permanent arrangement, but rather one which will endure as long as the crisis lasts.

RESOLUTION 3A

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors is wholly convinced of the national necessity for carrying on and even intensifying the program provided for in such measures as the Smith-Mundt act. It believes further that this society can be useful as supporter or as critic of the program, however it may develop. It suggests that the President be empowered to appoint a new committee to continue the work of reviewing the program, with special relationship to the United States newspaper press and that such committee be instructed to report at intervals to the society.

RESOLUTION FOUR

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors, recognizing the need for better reporting and interpretation of atomic information in the daily press, urges the establishment of training courses for reporters and editors in this news field. Be it further

RESOLVED: That the Society commend the Atomic Energy Commission for its concept of the public's right to all atomic information compatible with the national security, and for having proceeded soundly to date to stimulate the spread of atomic news and understanding among the American people. Be it further

RESOLVED: That the Society urge upon the Commission, the Congress and the President the fullest possible freedom of atomic information, subject to the minimum conditions deemed necessary to adequate national safety. Be it further

RESOLVED: That the Society authorize a standing committee on atomic information for the next year, to get training courses set up for newspaper men and to work with the Atomic Energy Commission in any way which can contribute to the fullest possible handling of atomic news.

REQUEST

Harold W. Sanford, editor, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, would be grateful if members who voted against the resolution on newspaper confidence bills would write him why they did so. He was puzzled by the opposition, and needs to know the reasons behind it as background information for the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors' Legislative Committee, which he heads.

RESOLUTION FIVE

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors calls upon the Solicitor of the Post Office Department for complete clarification of instructions issued under Section 601, Postal Laws and Regulations, restricting news of lotteries. It feels that past Post Office enforcement of this regulation, under threat of suspension of newspaper mailing privileges, has seriously interfered with the dissemination of news to which the public is entitled, and that under existing practice no editor or publisher can be certain how the regulation applies.

RESOLUTION SIX

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors holds that protection of news sources is a cardinal principle of newspaper ethics. Eleven states now recognize by statute the right of reporters and editors to keep in confidence the sources of their information. This Society believes the advantages of such a law outweigh any of its disadvantages. It urges consideration of such legislation by the remaining states.

RESOLUTION SEVEN

RESOLVED: The American Society of Newspaper Editors urges prompt consideration, by the Secretary of Defense committee on security, of charges of discrimination against certain American correspondents in former enemy territory now occupied by the United States armed forces. The Society believes that any restriction of movement or news dissemination by these correspondents violates the rights of a free press, unless such restrictions are enforced for the sole purpose of insuring military security, and urges that the areas of military security be clearly defined.

Howard's Address

"The Society—then and now" was the theme of President Howard's opening address.

For comparison, he began with a resume of the 1928 meeting, which 47 members attended, and touched on the subjects engaging the attention of the Society at that time—growth of free publicity, crime news, and advertising contracts which bespoke editorial support.

"I have gone into some detail about this historical account," Mr. Howard said, "to call attention sharply to the development today of a far different Society of Editors than that of 20 years ago. If it is true that the world has greatly changed in these 20 years, it is true and most important to us that the Society has undergone just as radical a change as most of the other manifestations of human endeavor."

The war, he continued, replaced the Society's absorption with strictly journalistic issues with a sudden responsibility for much broader and more public problems. He cited among them world freedom of information, dissemination of news by the State Department, atomic information, and accreditation of schools of journalism. The directors have undertaken such explorations, Mr. Howard said, "but it will do no harm to have the entire membership second-guess the Board's instinct that we needed to get into them." For that reason, committee reports were lifted out of the routine and given prominence on the program, with time for their discussion.

In conclusion Mr. Howard remarked:

"I trust I have not drawn a picture of a Society of editors which has grown up into sole preoccupation with grim national and global causes, as contrasted with those more charming days in which the joys of this annual get-together were in the associations of one editor with another and the pleasant dissection of common perplexities which begin and end in the composing room.

We have tried to save a part of the program for some of the lore of the brotherhood. And we know that, regardless of programs, it will still be a main happiness of this 26th annual meeting that we can once more rub shoulders with brethren we have not seen for a year and lean elbows on a high



Washington Post Photo

AT THE BANQUET: President Truman, and ASNE President N. R. Howard.

shelf alongside each other while some inspired wag orates beautifully but not too seriously on the virtues of the business to which we are devoted. May we never lose the fraternity-brother glow which this yearly roundup engenders; it is the real essence of our glorious American freedom of the press."

Memorial to Members

Consensus was that no one but Grove Patterson of the Toledo Blade could have served so well as Memorial Chairman. Genuine sentiment plus his unmatched eloquence added up to perfection. While his full text will appear in the Proceedings, the verse with which he concluded his memorial to members lost during the year is printed here for those who have asked for copies.

Death is only an old door
Set in a garden wall.
On gentle hinges it gives at dusk
When the thrushes call.
Along the lintel are green leaves;
Beyond, the light lies still.
Very willing and weary feet
Go over that sill.
There is nothing to trouble my heart,
Nothing to fear at all.
Death is only a quiet door
In an old wall.

NEW OFFICERS

Three officers of the Society were elected to new posts: Erwin D. Canham became president; B. M. McKelway and Dwight Young, first and second vice presidents respectively. Wright Bryan succeeded Mr. Young as secretary. For a magnificent job as treasurer, Alexander F. Jones was renominated to that office.

All four incumbent directors were re-elected: Mr. Bryan, Virginius Dabney, Hamilton Owens and Dwight Perrin. Mr. Perrin receiving the two-year unexpired term of N. R. Howard, now a Board member ex-officio. Of the new candidates, L. R. Blanchard was successful, elected to a three-year term.

Off the Record

Members who did not attend the convention missed, besides the spirit of fraternity, two off-the-record luncheons and a picture exhibit.

Under-Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett and Secretary of Defense James Forrestal both drew record crowds of guests.

The pictures, loaned by the Associated Press, lined the walls of the Congressional Room and elicited much favorable comment.



PAST PRESIDENTS graced the head table at the Friday luncheon, among them, Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade; W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News; Tom Wallace, Louisville Times.

News Dissemination

The report of Hamilton Owens, chairman of the standing committee on State Department Dissemination of News and Opinion, was followed by a statement by George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs on the purposes of the Department's information program.

In the question period, Ben Reese of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, asked what handicaps the Office of Information and Education Exchange is under because of failure to get AP and UP services. Mr. Allen replied that OIE is precluded from using items appearing in the press which are identifiable as exclusive AP and UP stories. He cited several AP exclusives the Department would like to have used.

Mr. Reese: "Will you please state, Mr. Allen, whether the AP or the UP is serving rival governments with their news services in some fashion or other?"

Mr. Allen: "The file of the AP and the UP are available immediately to the Soviet government because of the Tass representative here . . . As far as the British government is concerned, and the French government, there are arrangements between the AP and the UP and foreign agencies, such as Reuters, by which they exchange their news . . . I think the answer is very clear, that our news agencies' files are available to everybody else except the United States Government."

Mr. Owens' committee urged that the press associations should make their reports available to OIE, as long as the present crisis

lasts. This recommendation is incorporated in Resolution 3 which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Atomic Information

Informational problems of atomic energy are about as complicated as the atom itself, Gideon Seymour of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune indicated in his report as chairman of the ASNE-AEC committee.

"The problem of where to draw the line between publication and secrecy . . . arises at every stage in the reporting of atomic information," Mr. Seymour said. He reported his gratifying conviction that "the Commission is proceeding with a sound combination of enterprise and prudence to remove from the secret or classified list data pertaining to atomic science, as rapidly as such data can properly and safely be made available to the public."

W. W. Waymack, commission member, set forth the real objective of AEC in 15 words: "To make America as strong as possible, as fast as possible, in atomic energy development." That concept, he said, is as broad as war and peace; it includes weapon development, but not necessarily a stock-piling of Nagasaki-type bombs. In regard to atomic information he set forth "Waymack's Law," paraphrased from Aristotle: "Human nature will not tolerate a vacuum of understanding." With no text books available, for a period of years, he said, the press constitutes the first troops in the whole educational program.

Peace-time Censorship

The keynote to the talk made by Dr. Vannevar Bush was provided by President Howard when he introduced the chairman of the Research and Development Commission: "Dr. Bush probably knows more dreadful secrets than any living man. He is not going to tell you why, if you stumble across one, you shouldn't either. If he believes in any form of censorship, it is because he believes so earnestly in a free press."

Said Dr. Bush on the problem of security, "The quick, obvious and easy answer is, 'Tell nothing to anyone.' But easy answers don't make sense generally, and this one is no exception." The problem in determining whether to release information, he said, "is that of defining the process from research through development to procurement the point where the law of diminishing returns begins to operate on publication. That is the point where the possible peril to the total national safety because of the publication of a piece of information is greater than any possible gain from such publication."

Hanson Baldwin, New York Times, at the same session, had no quarrel with Dr. Bush's general admonition but took issue with him on details. He cited "top secrets" which in his opinion could have been released without danger to security. He concluded: "There should be no censorship in peacetime even of military information, except the self-imposed censorship of each individual reporter's, editor's and publisher's judgment aided by the best technical advice obtainable."

Nat Finney, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, agreed that something new has been added in this whole matter of secrecy and that the newspaper world must acknowledge the necessity for it. But aside from such exceptions, he said, "I think it is enormously essential that the reporter's attitude should be to do his damndest to get information." Mr. Finney concurred heartily with the paragraph in the Seymour report which said: "There always will be plenty of pressure on the side of secrecy. The danger is that, if the press defaults in its duty to knowledge, there will be too little pressure for achievement."

News Interpretation

Three distinguished service members of the Society blithely discarded their assigned topic, "When I Was an Editor," and talked instead about interpretive news writing. They were introduced by David Lawrence, United States News & World Report, who commented, "The word 'columnist' seems to me to be particularly inappropriate when applied to men who write as these three do." Excerpts from their talks follow.

Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor: "I think that today's newspaper reader urgently needs more insight into the meaning of the news; that today's newspaper must provide more insight into the meaning of the news; that the interpretive news writing which will provide this insight should have visible and distinctive typographical display; that by expanding the role of interpretive writing and making it typographically visible, we have a way not primarily of winning more readers, but of winning more of the mind of our readers."

Arthur Krock, New York Times: "As a reporter of government, I pursue original sources, and offer you my results; I seek the spot-news stories and then try to interpret and appraise them, with infrequent editorial comment . . . This formula leaves direct advocacy or opposition to the paper's management whose spokesmen are the editorial writers. But never consciously—I am also in charge of the Washington Bureau of the New York Times—do I let the spot news product be influenced or guided by that editorial policy and I try to do the same thing that I add to the other, because an influence of that kind, if it is allowed, chills any kind of honest reporting, and The Times has been very generous in bringing this concept to mind."

Walter Lippmann, New York Herald Tribune: "It is not an accident that the employment of a professional commentator has become general during the world crises . . . I think he was invented for the unending series of crises and emergencies which, since 1929, have given to what goes on in Washington and in foreign lands an importance it never had before . . . For columnists, or rather the columnists I am talking about, like the four of us here



COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, Richard W. Clarke, New York News, and Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sun, with the new director, L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers.

today, are editorial writers who live in Washington and specialize on the events which now, as never before, are determined by what goes on here . . . I think newspapers use these columnists because in a country as big as this one, and in an era when national and international affairs have become extraordinarily complicated and important, it is no longer possible for any staff of editorial writers to do the whole work of explaining and interpreting all the news."

Printerless Papers

James Kerney, Trenton Times, led off the discussion of "How to Get to Press without Printers," described operations with Vari-type and IBM electric typewriter material as "like rum—something you could take, but which could never take the place of whiskey." They soon hired GI's whom they trained as printers inside of four months.

Leon Stolz, Chicago Tribune, dwelled for the most part on the technicalities of the new process, and invited any editor visiting in Chicago to drop in and witness present efficient operation.

Basil L. Walters, Chicago Daily News, confessed that he'd like to see printers back because "they are our friends and fellow employees. We don't like to see them made the innocent victims of an ambitious labor leader." The greatest long-range benefit of the situation he said, "will result from the fact that we in the newspaper business have been forced to give thought to modernizing our production methods."

Editorial Page Panel

Star performer on the editorial page panel turned out to be Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune, of whom President Howard said, "It is a remarkable faculty of the Jones family that, no matter who is in charge of the paper, it always comes sizzling off the press." Like his paper, Mr. Jones sizzled. His main criticism was the widespread lack of local subjects. "The tragic fact," he said, "is that many an editorial writer can't hit a short-range target. He's hell on distance."

Virginius Dabney, Richmond Times-Dispatch, dwelled largely on the problems peculiar to the southern press, among them civil rights, demagogues and "the dead hand of the one-party system." His most amazing prediction: "I believe an unprecedented number of southern newspapers will back the Republican nominee for President, provided he is a reasonably acceptable person, for example Vandenberg in particular, or Stassen."

Each member of the panel approached his assignment in the way he pleased. Lloyd M. Felmy, Newark News, took the hard way, diligently studied the editorial pages of 40 newspapers for a week, thus scrutinizing well over 200 pages. He generalized little, named names for better or worse.

Frank Clarvoe, San Francisco News, went him one better, studied editorial pages of 100 western newspapers one day a week for eight weeks. He addressed a questionnaire to their editors, got 78 replies, and many helpful comments which he incorporated in his report.

62 Members Added During the Year

A. M. PIPER, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, announced the election of 62 members since he took over as membership chairman, and introduced those present.

Of the total, 26 were elected just prior to the convention. They are:

NEWTON AIKEN, editor, Baltimore Evening Sun.

GEORGE A. BENSON, associate editor, Toledo Times.

SEVELLON BROWN, 3rd, assistant to editor, Providence Journal-Bulletin.

WALTER E. CHRISTENSON, editor, Omaha World-Herald.

PAUL F. CRAIG, managing editor, Springfield (Mass.) Union.

ROBERT C. CRANE, editor, Elizabeth Daily Journal.

FRANK EYERLY, managing editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

VALENTINE FALLON, managing editor, Elizabeth Daily Journal.

HARRY B. HAINES, editor and publisher, Paterson Evening News.

GROVER C. HALL, Jr., associate editor, The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. KENNEDY, editor and publisher, San Diego Journal.

EARL E. KEYSER, editor, Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal.

WALTER LISTER, managing editor, Philadelphia Bulletin.

C. E. McCLELLAND, managing editor, Galveston News-Tribune.

RAYMOND A. McCONNELL, Jr., editor, Lincoln Star.

E. P. MARTIN, managing editor, Casper Tribune-Herald.

PAUL MILLER, assistant to president, Gannett Newspapers.

HARRY MONTGOMERY, executive editor, Phoenix Republic and Gazette.

HARLAN PALMER, Jr., managing editor, Hollywood Citizen-News.

WARREN H. PIERCE, associate editor, St. Petersburg Times.

JOSEPH PULITZER, Jr., vice president and editorial editor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

ELZEY M. ROBERTS, Jr., vice president and directing editor, St. Louis Star Times.

WILLIAM R. SMITH, editor, Macon News.

DOROTHY S. THACKREY, co-editor and co-publisher, New York Post and Home News.

PHILIP M. WAGNER, editor, Baltimore Sun.

HENRY A. WILLIAMS, editor, Paterson Morning Call.

As it is difficult, under the by-laws, to maintain representation in states which have few large cities, Mr. Piper proposed an amendment which would admit not more than two members from six states which have on cities over 50,000 population, and one from nine states which have only one city in that class. This would be in addition to the annual quota of five from smaller cities prescribed in the constitution.

The Board approved this change and it will be submitted to the next convention for action.

Banquet Seating

Members were grand about banquet ticket limitation, confined themselves to the legal four or less, and still the second room was filled. One Pacific coast member seated there suspected discrimination against westerners, but the seating chart proved that staggered mailing of reservation blanks worked. Sharing front tables with easterners were W. W. Ward, Beaumont Journal; Edward T. Austin, San Diego Union; Frank Baker, Tacoma Tribune.

Somebody has to sit in the second room and some members are wonderful about it, among them Jonathan Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer who, due to dilatory habits, has never yet done better than Table 66 and takes it graciously. Duncan Oliphant, Portland Press-Herald, accepted tickets in the very last row with the

TOUGH JOB

Hardest working officer at the convention was B. M. McKelway. Second vice president, he also was program chairman, and in charge of endless details such as arranging for invited guests and the reception given by the directors for the President and Mrs. Truman. He headed, and reported for, the sub-committee on the Forrestal conference on security. And he also served as press chairman.

comment, "Fine. I don't like to be crowded."

But most don't like it. One member arriving in the banquet hall registered vigorous protest about his table, an inopportune time because it obviously was too late to do anything about it though perhaps he had to save face with his wife. At any rate, the envelopes in which checks were received have been saved with postmark dates as evidence if anyone yearns for post-mortem arguments about their seats. The few tables left by Thursday morning, April 15, were reserved first for members who had bought no tickets.

The real question is what to do next year? Shall we go through it all again, or shall the Board further limit tickets? A neat suggestion was offered, possibly with tongue in cheek, by David Lawrence at the last directors meeting: "Give members who take only one ticket, the front seats; reserve the next best tables for members who buy only two or three tickets; and put the four-somes in the second room. That'll automatically keep down reservations!"



LUNCHEON SHOT: Clifford B. Ward, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel; Fred C. Christopherson, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader; James R. Benham, Terre Haute Star.

Mezzanine, Lobby, and Cocktail Room Chatter . . .

Probably the neatest job of the convention was President Howard's smooth ad libbing until time for President Truman to go on the air at the banquet. With four minutes to go, he sweated it out like a veteran announcer, and brought down the house when he fell back, again and again, on our gratitude to Major William F. Santelmann, leader of the U. S. Marine Band Symphony Orchestra.

Stuffy Walters, Knight Newspapers, Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer and William J. Woods, Utica Observer-Dispatch, sacrificed cocktail parties to stand guard with the Secret Service and identify members. They were needed too; several would-be gate-crashers were turned back. Two alternates, Nelson Poynter of the St. Petersburg Times, and H. D. Paulson, Fargo Forum, had agreed to serve but were not called on.

Our own secret agent spotted Ralph Coghlan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, among the passengers boarding planes for home, at Washington airport. He reports that our St. Louis director set down a large stack of papers to go into the Administration building for cigarettes. Just then the propellers of a four-motored job started whirling, and Ralph saw his precious documents blown up in the air to be scattered all over Arlington County.

Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, Holyoke Transcript Telegram, attended her first convention. A very snappy lady of 75, Mrs. Dwight dashed back to Florida where she had been supervising her orange grove before returning to Holyoke for the summer.

Caleb R. King Sr., Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, suggests a ladies' luncheon next year at which ASNE widows may get acquainted.

Mrs. Don Shoemaker, whose husband is associate editor of the Asheville Citizen and Mrs. Elmer Cunningham, wife of the managing editor of the Wilmington (Del.) Journal Every Evening, are not interested. They are among the increasing number of wives who attend the sessions and are thrilled by them.

"Gets worse and worse, doesn't it?" was the cheerfully dour comment of William Stouffer, Roanoke World-News, on the convention as a whole.

Another rebellious Southerner, William T. Christian, Richmond News Leader, chimed in, "The trouble is that each president wants to outdo the last in length of sessions and important activity. I have a Charlie horse in my spine."

Both deplored increased convention attendance.

John R. Herbert, Quincy Patriot Ledger, also misses the smaller gatherings of years gone by, but sees no way out. His point: We speak for the daily newspapers of the nation, but we can't rightly speak for them unless the majority are represented in ASNE—and there are 2000 of them in the country.

A charter member turned up unexpectedly, Marc A. Rose, then managing editor of the Buffalo Evenings News, now senior editor of Reader's Digest.

Are editors sheep? Or why, when the cocktail party was announced for two rooms, did they all flock to and congest the Federal Room? A very few members with an exploring turn of mind, like Norman Isaacs, St. Louis Star Times, and David Patten, Providence Journal-Bulletin, discovered that drinks also were being served in the South American room, which was practically empty, exclusive and elite.

Mrs. Lenoir Chambers proposes that the Society should meet every two years, in some distinctive city like New Orleans or Seattle, and settle down for a week to enjoy that section of the country. Motion seconded by her husband, editor of the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

Frank Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial-Appeal, apologetically offered a correction in statement of fact at the meeting. Let there be no misunderstanding; any member who can offer a correction, even to a middle initial, or hyphen between merged newspapers, is helping to make the printed Proceedings as accurate as is humanly possible.

Memo to Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune, who has really suffered with an unwanted and illegitimate middle initial: It really has been eliminated at last.

Clayton Fritchey, New Orleans Item, is first cousin to newly

elected member William M. Reddig, Charlotte Observer. No particular significance but somehow it seems interesting.

Some member is always embarrassed to have lost his banquet tickets. This year it was Jack B. Thompson, Chester (Pa.) Times, who was particularly embarrassed because of security rules due to the presence of President Truman. But it all worked out; duplicates were issued to him, and no one turned up with the original tickets.

We had the usual mix-up re Table 13. No use querying members as to whether they are superstitious since one, like L. R. Blanchard of Gannett Newspapers, says definitely not; one, who shall ever remain nameless, says frankly, "I am." And one, meaning Louis R. Weil, Port Huron Times-Herald, says, "I'm not—but my guests may be."

If the hotel sets up a table 13, the printer superstitiously refrains from printing 12 tickets with that number, labels them instead 11-A; or vice versa. Credit for straightening out this year's mess goes to Herbert Corn, Washington Star. We're thinking of permanently giving him Table 13.

Most conciliatory member, no matter where he sits, is Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia. He's arranged a few banquet charts himself!

Frankly enjoying her role as First Lady of ASNE, Mrs. N. R. Howard remarked as the banquet ended, "I'm Cinderella! Where's my coach?"

One major error was corrected at approximately 6:47 on Saturday. No provision at the head table was made for one new director. Happily L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, and Mrs. Blanchard were remembered in time and placed among the celebrities.

First Hawaiian member ever to attend a convention was Lorrin P. Thurston, Honolulu Advertiser, who fortuitously was called before a committee on the Hill, at this time, to testify re statehood for the Islands. On a similar mission, though not a member of the Society, Harry Blickhahn of the Hilo Tribune also enjoyed the meetings.

Amendment Dropped

What happened to that amendment about ousting 58 members who do not attend conventions and give no evidence of interest in the Society?

The Board was properly impressed by the reaction from elderly members who find it impossible to attend the meeting; from southern members who cannot go to Washington because their April primaries are the equivalent of November elections in the north; from other members who for one reason or another cannot attend, but still cherish their ASNE membership.

Only exception to the vigorous protest was T. Barney Thompson, Rockford (Ill.) Register-Republic and Morning Star, who said he believed he deserved to be ousted for lack of attendance, born of the fact that he had attended too many conventions in his youth, and resigned in favor of his managing editor, who would make a more active adornment to the Society.

With the score 57 to one, the directors did the honorable thing. They admitted a mistake and rescinded the amendment they had originally proposed.

Accreditation

Several years ago Dwight Marvin of the Troy Record said, "If a B. J. and a B. A. stood before me with equal qualities and wanted a job, I would take the B. A. every time."

His feeling about journalism schools changed and, as chairman of the American Council for Education in Journalism, he told the story of his conversion at the session on accreditation.

Stephen C. Noland, Indianapolis News, ASNE representative on the Accreditation Committee, admitted he tackled the job with his fingers crossed for "three newspapermen went into the ring against four deans of journalism schools." He was pleasantly surprised when they cooperated perfectly. The other member of the committee, A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, was unable to attend.

Six editors who visited schools to appraise their standards related their experiences. Said Tom Wallace, Louisville Times, "It was rather painful to listen to those

children. 'We want to be newspaper people,' they said, 'but we do not want to starve. So we are going into public relations.'"

Others reporting their experiences were Marvin H. Creager, Milwaukee Journal; Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post; and Kenneth MacDonald, Des Moines Register and Tribune. Norval D. Luxon, of Ohio State University, who is President of American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism, summarized the objectives of the accrediting program.

The transcript of that meeting is recommended reading for anyone who is interested in the work—and particularly for those who have not yet seen the light.

Finances Healthy

Treasurer Alexander F. Jones reported the pleasant news that the Society had an operating balance of \$10,423.59 on April 1, an increase of \$903.12 over the comparable balance last year, and President Howard immediately commended him as a good watchdog of the treasury.

Neither receipts nor expenses of this year's convention were included in these figures, but after bills have been paid, Mr. Jones will report in The Bulletin whether the Society made or lost money on the annual meeting.

Political Sessions

The Congressional session, originated by Alexander F. Jones of The Washington Post when he was program chairman in 1944, continues to grow in popularity. The speakers: Senators Robert A. Taft, James D. Eastland, and Glen Taylor, and Representatives Charles A. Halleck and A. S. (Mike) Monroney.

A second evening meeting was added this campaign year to permit the appearance of Rep. Clarence J. Brown, chairman of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee; Gael Sullivan, executive director of the Democratic National Committee and C. B. Baldwin campaign manager of the Wallace for President Committee.

Quick-witted and politically minded, N. R. Howard presided at both meetings and kept the discussions going at a lively pace.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 297 May 1, 1948

Dwight Young Honored

Secretary Dwight Young reported a new high in membership, 482.

At the request of President Howard, Mr. Young presented an outline of Board activities during the year.

Secretary since 1944, Mr. Young wins undisputed claim to the title of most faithful worker in the vineyard, and in appreciation of his efforts, the new Board elected him second vice-president.

Twenty-Year Club

Several members whom N. R. Howard mentioned in his opening address as participants in the 1928 meeting were on hand at the 1948 meeting. Among them: E. Robert Stevenson, Waterbury Republican-American; Tom Wallace, Louisville Times; Dwight Marvin, Troy Record; A. L. Miller, Battle Creek Enquirer and News; Marvin H. Creager, Milwaukee Journal; A. O. H. Grier, Wilmington Journal-Every Evening; Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal; James L. McGovern, Bridgeport Post-Telegram; Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade, only charter member who has never missed a meeting; Walter M. Harrison, then with the Oklahoman and Times and now a distinguished service member; Burrows Matthews, Buffalo Courier-Express; and Paul Belamy, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 298

June 1, 1948

ACEJ Suggests Journalism Profs As Summer Subs

• By DWIGHT MARVIN
Editor, Troy Record

The American Council on Education for Journalism is making a suggestion which ought to interest the entire newspaper fraternity.

As we all know, the ACEJ has been engaged, for the last year or two, in the task of accrediting such schools of journalism as deserve accreditation on account of the standard of their equipment and instruction. In connection with the work it has discovered that a great many of the teachers, even in the strongest schools, have been for years away from the practical routine of their profession. Once they were on the staffs of newspapers but they turned aside to collegiate halls. There they have been, ever since.

Therefore the ACEJ is suggesting that newspapers which engage summer workers during the vacation period should open their doors to some of the teaching journalists in accredited schools and let them refurbish their newspaper background. While some of them might be a bit rusty, they would doubtless be of much more value than college lads and lasses who usually do summer work. With ten or twelve weeks of summer employment these instructors would learn of the new developments in journalism, would meet practical newspaper men on the old level and would get the feel of the vocation once more.

The plan has been presented to a number of leading editors and all of them have expressed approval, most of them with enthusiasm. The plan contemplates a way by which the newspapers can make the schools more effective—which is precisely what the

newspapers desire. The cost would not exceed that of ordinary summer substitutes.

President Canham writes: "I have great sympathy with your idea for a project by which journalism teachers could spend the summer months on newspaper staffs." He suggested this description of the plan through The Bulletin and thought it would be well to get some reactions this year, with a view to introducing the idea next year if no serious obstacles were encountered.

The ACEJ feels a program could be planned, circularizing the newspapers to find out those which would cooperate and with how many places. Then the accredited schools could divide up their faculties in such a way that each member of their teaching force might participate at regular intervals in this kind of a Sabbatical summer of re-acquaintance with the practice of their profession.

Canham Renames Seymour and Marvin

President Erwin D. Canham has named Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee; and Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, as ASNE representative on the American Council for Education in Journalism. Both are reappointments.

As chairman of the committee formed last fall, at the suggestion of AEC, to study informational problems of atomic energy, Mr. Seymour gained an understanding of the complex subject which made him the logical choice to carry on the extended work of the group this year.

Similarly, Mr. Marvin, who has served as the ASNE member of ACEJ since 1946 and that year was elected president of the Council, is the member best equipped to represent the Society on the continuing accreditation program of which ASNE is a sponsor.

Members Debate A Further Limit On Banquet Seats

Should we continue to make the annual ASNE dinner a large affair, or should we restrict attendance to ASNE members and their wives?

Bulletin readers may wish to discuss the subject. In larger dinners, like those of the past few years, limitations of the Statler dining room force many respected members into the outfield, where they can barely see the speaker.

The Statler can seat about 600 people in the main dining room. The attendance at this year's dinner was 917. While the Board attempted to restrict attendance this year (three guests per member), more drastic limitations will have to be imposed unless we are willing to continue the present practice of overcrowding, with resulting discomfort and perhaps embarrassment to some of the members.

I have heard both sides discussed. Those in favor of the large dinners regard it as an opportunity for entertainment of staff members and other friends in Washington and take the overcrowding in their stride.

Those who advocate limiting the attendance to members and their wives prefer the relative intimacy of such a dinner and believe it would add to the prestige of the Society.

If some of The Bulletin readers would express their own views they might influence a decision which inevitably will have to be made.

B. M. McKELWAY, Editor,
The Washington Star.

★ ★ ★

William J. Mahoney, Jr., managing editor of the Montgomery Advertiser and Alabama Journal

(Continued on Page 3)

NEW MEMBERS AT THE CONVENTION



Marshall N. Dana, Oregon Journal; Robert J. Arthur, Scranton Tribune; Frank N. Hawkins, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; Edward J. Gerrity, Scranton Times; William R. Smith, Macon News; Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., St. Louis Post-Dispatch; William M. Reddig, Charlotte News.



George A. Benson, Toledo Times; John S. Hooper, Brattleboro Reformer; Arthur Laro, Houston Post; Clayton G. Horn, Canton Repository; Norman E. Isaacs, and Elzey M. Roberts, Jr., St. Louis Star-Times.



Dolph Simons, Lawrence Journal-World; Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor; Charles W. Dressler, Johnstown Tribune; Robert A. Barracks, East St. Louis Journal; John J. McDonnell, Perth Amboy News; Harlow Palmer, Jr., Hollywood Citizen-News.

11 Members Leave Society; Several Expect to Return

Eleven members have resigned from the Society in the past quarter, all but three because of ineligibility under the by-laws.

"My only reason for resigning," writes Ralph Nicholson, president-publisher of the New Orleans Item, "is that, in my opinion, I am no longer qualified for membership."

Marshall Field, publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times, says he has enjoyed enormously his short association with the Society, "But I am afraid I can no longer qualify as an editor, and I feel that the organization is meant to be and should be for editors and not for publishers."

J. P. Skinner has resigned as managing editor of the Atlanta Constitution to go into public relations work.

E. Z. Dimitman, formerly Chicago Sun, at present is "disaffiliated" but expects to return to newspaper editorship and will apply for reinstatement then.

Although he is still writing for the Grand Rapids Herald, and expects to see many old ASNE friends when he covers the national conventions, Frank Sparks has retired from the editorship of the paper.

Also retired is Fred L. Crane, Elizabeth Daily Journal, whose son, Robert C. Crane, last month was elected in his stead.

Don Morris, who resigned as editor of the Orlando (Fla.) Star, and has been working on the Shands for Governor campaign, had no definite plans after last month's primaries but expects eventually to return to newspaper work.

O. D. Burge, formerly managing editor, Jacksonville (Fla.) Journal, is now news editor of the New York Daily News.

Although he has "enjoyed and benefited by the Bulletin and found inspiration in The Proceedings," George F. Lounsbury, chief editorial writer of the Milwaukee Sentinel has been unable to attend conventions. "This has troubled me," he writes, "as I feel that it is the duty of members to go to the convention and participate in its work." This situation and advanc-

ing years combine to convince him he should resign.

The same reason is given by T. Barney Thompson, editor of the Rockford Republic and Morning Star.

W. W. McClanahan, managing editor of the Toledo Times, relinquished his membership to another staff member on the theory that "ASNE is of more value to persons concerned with the editorial page." He hopes to renew his membership at some future date.

Debate on The Size of Annual Banquet

(Continued from Page 1)

subscribes enthusiastically to the suggestion that the 1949 banquet be limited to two tickets for each member.

"I am speaking not only for myself," he writes, "but for the other two Montgomery members of the Society, Grover C. Hall, Jr., and R. F. Hudson, Jr."

"For three successive years one or two of us have attended this annual banquet. In not one of the three years have we been within seeing distance of the speakers' table."

"If we were being crowded into a second room by members and their wives, there could be no room for complaint. But when the fault lies with an expanded guest list of early-bird ticket applicants, a protest seems in order."

"Please cast three enthusiastic votes in behalf of a two-tickets-per-member limit for the 1949 ASNE banquet."

★ ★ ★

S. L. Latimer, Jr., editor and publisher of The State, Columbia, S. C., dissents:

"There are many members of the Society, I am sure, who like to entertain friends at the annual dinner in Washington, including guests from their newspapers. I am one of these, and I certainly hope there will be no further ticket reduction. In fact I regretted that it was necessary to cut the limit to four this year."

The 1948 dinner was a notable occasion, and the presence of our visitors was a factor in making it so.

I took a good look at the seating, knowing that it was a problem, and I can't see where the call for further limitation can come on this score.

Convention Suggestion

In my business, the editorial panels are always the most useful part of the convention program. However, the meeting has grown so big that any real discussion and shop talk are impossible. What do members think about breaking the group down regionally, or by circulation, or something, so that "discussion" will not be like fighting for the floor at a presidential convention?

DON SHOEMAKER, Editor, The Asheville Citizen.

★ ★ ★

Taking the middle road, Alfred G. Hill, editor of the Chester (Pa.) Times says:

"Any arrangement that the officers of the ASNE make in regard to the annual banquet tickets will be satisfactory to me."

"Any curtailment of ticket privileges will be accepted because I know it is necessary."

"I realize the Society is growing and there may be no alternative. However, that doesn't change the fact that the opportunity in the past to invite friends in Washington, largely members of Congress and other officials who have extended courtesies to me, has been an extremely gratifying privilege. I have never had guests to any invitation I have been able to extend who seemed more appreciative, and if it is necessary for me to give up my role as host that necessity will be regretted."

★ ★ ★

Your Opinion Wanted

Reaction to Mr. McKelway's suggestion was sought from a few members, but the discussion is wide open and other members are urged to submit their ideas for next month.

Agor, Discussing Suppression of Stories, Declares Some Editors Try to Play God

• By JOSEPH AGOR

Editor, Shamokin (Pa.) News-Dispatch

Lynn H. Holcomb's intriguing question in the March Bulletin, "How many editors suppress how many stories . . ." sent me flying to my Remington. The Akron editor's provocative elaboration of his question had my mind sizzling with answers; but, staring at the virginal white paper, I found I was going to have some difficulty confining my thesis to the limited space available in The Bulletin.

Out of my jumbled thoughts another question emerged: How many editors try to play God?

No, my question is not irreverent. I have known editors who believed they had the right to sustain or destroy people and things on the basis of questionable tradition and the fact they had the backing of their publishers. Power makes some men humble . . . and careful; it makes others arrogant and cruel. Newspaper editors, by and large, are no different than other men.

Back now to Mr. Holcomb's question.

While a wide variety of events, both serio-comic and tragic, provide excellent story material, the fact does not follow as a matter of course that they make news which must be printed. In many cases the misfortunes of men and women, while entertaining to some readers because they satisfy a morbid inner craving for dirt about the other fellow, can hardly be said to perform any useful service for individual readers or the public at large. Every day things happen to people, things which are no business of the public. An editor conscious of the responsibility which accompanies his power will not depend on frantic appeals from principals in a story to help him make decisions for or against using it.

Few persons outside the newspaper field are familiar with the modus operandi of newspapermen, hence when they plead for suppression of stories they invariably get off on the wrong foot. Too often they lie. Many of them resort to the old chestnut: "You'd kill this story without my asking if I were wealthy and powerful."

While the charge that people of wealth and power receive special consideration from newspapers is, as a general rule, untrue, there are, nevertheless, editors and publishers who gauge at least some of their actions by the importance of the individuals involved. And I don't mean news importance, either. On the other hand, there are newsmen of all ranks who delight in causing embarrassment to men and women of prominence. But then, newspapermen (even editors) are people, and to pretend we are mantled with infallibility would be silly.

Like other editors, I have heard the statement: "If you print that story, I'll kill myself," and: "If that story appears in print many innocent people will suffer." I have been threatened, and I have been called both a reactionary and a radical. Radicals have threatened to "blow up the building," and reactionaries have tried to have me sacked.

I have no compunctions about killing a story, no matter how interesting or well written, if I think it will cause needless hurt to innocent people yet perform no public good. And I have no hesitancy in running a story which contains information I think the public should have. When possible, I soften the hurt to those who are innocently involved.

Happily, the bulk of the day's news does not require hair-splitting decisions. When a debatable story crops up it should be handled strictly on its merits and with due regard to the circumstances involved, not in accordance with either tradition or personal sentiment.

From Our Dayton Bureau:

For several years past, Dwight Young has spent his vacations setting out avocados and mangoes in Florida, where he planned to retire next January, at 65. But leaving Dayton and The Journal-Herald wasn't as easy as he had expected. When L. B. Rock, publisher, made a counter proposition, Mr. Young accepted with alacrity. While continuing as editor-in-chief of both papers, he is passing some of the administrative duties on to others, and will spend the

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No. 298 June 1, 1948

time thus gained writing a column three times a week and on roving assignment. The new arrangement permits the Society's second vice president to return to his original love, writing.

Two Members Die

The Society lost two members through death in convention week. George W. Cottingham, editor of the Houston Chronicle, and a long-time member of the Society died in New York City, April 12, of a heart attack. He had planned on going from New York to the ASNE meeting in Washington.

Kenneth W. Simons, editor of the Bismarck Tribune, also died unexpectedly, on April 20. Mr. Simons had been an ASNE member only since last fall, when he was elected by the Board in the quota permitted from cities under 50,000 population.

Resentment Noted and Filed

I appreciated your kind words about me, in the last Bulletin as the most complaisant man in the back room at the banquet, but I resented that crack about my dilatoriness. I never put off until next year what I should have done last year.

JONATHAN DANIELS, Editor
The Raleigh News and Observer

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 299

July 1, 1948

Bulletin Sampling Reveals The Stuff That Light Editorials Are Made Of

Three out of four speakers on the editorial page panel at the convention mentioned a discouraging dearth of light editorials on the pages they surveyed, and suggested that editors garnish heavy editorials with an occasional piece that is bright and enticing. Some editors are doing so already, as evidenced by the excerpts that follow.

Last summer's flying saucer hysteria was revived in St. Louis this spring with the appearance of a "flying-what-is-it," described variously as a circular apparition with ribbed framework doing a slow roll at 300 feet, a Hallowe'en witch, and a big dark thing lazily flapping its wings as it chased an airplane.

Quoting a Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial:

"Such is the power of suggestion that we shall soon be informed, in all likelihood, that somebody in Kansas City has observed a huge object with outlines vaguely resembling a blimp cast in the contours of Roy Roberts doing an adagio Missouri Waltz across the stockyards."

Virginus Dabney's hand also is detected in an editorial based on an address in which Lieut.-Governor Arthur W. Coolidge of Massachusetts said "the razorback hog states" would fail in their effort to use their "down-trodden Jeeter Lesters as a lever for wrecking the livelihood of Massachusetts labor."

The Times-Dispatch dismissed his many unflattering references to Dixie as bugaboos exhumed "whenever the South's advantages as to climate, labor supply and natural resources are mentioned east of the Hudson," and concluded, "We mud-waddlers and Claghorns down here will be pardoned for hitching up our galluses, scratching our fleas, and letting go with a few well-modulated guffaws."

The Richmond newspaper is wrangling with Barry Bingham's Louisville Courier-Journal over skunk-trapping in their respective states. The gist of the argument is contained in these excerpts,

from an editorial in the Kentucky paper.

"A couple of years ago the editor of The Times-Dispatch announced, with an elated whoop, that Virginia had led the entire South in skunk-trapping in 1944. We thought he was over-excited and probably misinformed. We said so frankly, which peeved him . . . and he fell into a moody silence on the subject. So not long ago we asked him publicly about the skunk situation in his state since 1944 . . .

"He complains (in an editorial reprinted on the same page) that our state keeps no skunk-trapping statistics and implies that this is a sign of backwardness. Be that as it may, how could he, with no Kentucky statistics at hand, have known that Virginia led the entire South in 1944? What he should have said was ' . . . led the entire South with the likely exception of Kentucky, where the prowess of the skunk-trappers is exceeded only by their reticence, so that no figures are available.' But was he thus reasonable and accurate? No, Virginia-like, he let fly with his extravagant and unqualified claims, and if it hadn't been for our vigilance, people would be believing it to this day."

★ ★ ★

An editorial in the New York Times (Charles Merz, editor) began familiarly "Dear Mike." It was addressed to a 12-year-old who turned down a chance to go to a fresh air camp, preferring to spend the summer in the city. Quotes follow:

"Your reason for this, revealing a 'you can have it, I don't want it' attitude toward the great open spaces, is material that warms

the heart of bona fide New Yorkers . . . It is the stuff that high-powered travel brochures are made of. It must have made Maine, Vermont, the far-off hotel keepers of Banff and the cordial hosts of Nova Scotia blench in nerve-shattering trepidation as they read it, and wonder if you might become a Trend . . .

"We hope you and your kind have happy summers in New York, if you like it, or don't have the chance to get away. And don't let anybody kid you. This place here is OK."

★ ★ ★

Asked for samples of the light editorials he advocated in his convention talk, Lloyd Felmlly, editor of the Newark Evening News, sent three. One deals with polls, in a presidential election year for which the pollsters live; another with Secretary of State Marshall, on vacation, submitting gamely to being snapped at bat in a softball game; but our favorite is "Pie, Yet."

That one came about when copies of a U. S. Department of Agriculture cookbook, designed to cut food costs, were distributed in York and Lancaster, Pa., causing Representative Gross to protest in pained surprise, "We probably eat better than anybody else, and we eat cheaper, too." Concurring, The News said, in part:

"A Pennsylvania Dutch breakfast is an institution guaranteed to insulate the consumer against snow and sleet, Pennsylvania politics and adversity in all its manifold forms.

"As the radio man says, you start the day right. Eggs, ham, pancakes, bacon and scrapple, milk, coffee—and pie, yet. Dinner, at midday, comes in seven sections after soup, and for supper you do it all over, with noodles already."

Report on ASNE Proceedings

The annual proceedings will be mailed to members before the next Bulletin. This is the last call for corrections in the mailing list.

THE HALLS OF ALABAMA

Establishing a record, four members of one famous newspaper family have belonged to ASNE. First was the late Grover C. Hall, a shrewd and witty gentleman who took an active part in the Society over a long period; then Julian, who belonged only briefly. Next came Horace and, elected last fall, Grover C., Jr.

Registering early for last spring's banquet, Horace sacrificed an up-front table to sit with Grover Jr. This unprecedented testimony of cousinly affection impelled us to ask Dothan's Hall about his Montgomery kin, and vice versa.

HORACE—By Grover

COUSIN Horace Hall, editor-publisher of The Dothan (Ala.) Eagle, runs a bantam Dallas Morning News—hard-hitting, truculent, vital and full of news.

The Eagle's 15,000 circulation is an outstanding case of saturation. It spends more money on news coverage than comparable papers, and The Advertiser's circulation manager complains that it grows harder to crack The Eagle's downstate area.

It has a modern building and equipment, non-union shop whose members drew up to \$500. in Christmas bonuses and a high salary level in the editorial department.

The Eagle's editorial page is long on city, state and national concerns and eschews foreign policy pretensions. The style is breezy, tart and sometimes savage.

There is no "Afghanistan" range-finder on The Eagle's cannon; it's geared for point-blank range. Local politicians and agencies are accustomed to the rude intrusions of The Eagle and stoically accept them. The chief infirmity of The Eagle's editorial page is that it often disagrees with The Advertiser's.

Horace is a balding Irishman in his forties, of austere countenance and combative temperament. Half of Dothan is scared of him; so am I. He is a hunter, fisherman and a trophy golfer.

Gov. "Big Jim" Folsom, stud laureate of Alabama, told me several times in the '46 campaign that there were only two of "them lyn' newspapers" that could be relied upon to print all the news



HORACE



GROVER

—The Birmingham Post and The Dothan Eagle.

Horace's father founded The Eagle. Publisher Horace took over the editorial page upon the auto-accident death in 1939 of brother and Editor Julian. Horace is the only newspaper Hall I ever heard of who has made a lot of money.

He is wed to a good-looking brunet woman and is the father of a 'teen-aged daughter. His son, Billy, who worked briefly on the paper, was a Liberator pilot killed over the North Sea by the runaway guns of another Liberator.

Such is the sum of the good things I am able to say of Cousin Horace. If I told the other things I know, George Selde would have another book and the Hutchins Commission would have an annex to its report.

GROVER—By Horace

When Grover C. Hall, Jr., left high school in Montgomery it didn't take long for him to decide that newspaper life would be pleasanter than the mercantile business. So he went to The Advertiser as a cub.

City Editor Hatton determined to convince Grover, Jr., that being the son of that newspaper's Pulitzer prize-winning editor would be a handicap rather than an asset. Despite the handicap, he advanced. In a few months he was covering police as a regular, and then the State capitol. When The Advertiser bought The Journal, he was shifted to the evening side of the combination as capitol correspondent and columnist. Shortly thereafter his father died.

In 1942 he sweated through OCS and was sent to England with the famed Fourth Fighter Group as Public Relations Officer, emerging

as a captain in October, 1945. Back on The Journal he soon won recognition as a keen political observer and student of Alabama political history. So it was no surprise when The Advertiser announced, in the summer of 1947, his appointment as associate editor. Nor was it surprising when, early this year, he was invited to occupy his father's old chair.

At 33 he is the youngest editor The Advertiser ever had, and one of the youngest among Southern newspapers of comparable size. He is the fourth Hall from Alabama to hold membership in the Society and attended his first convention in April.

Sunpapers Have Full ASNE Representation

The Baltimore Sunpapers are the first organization publishing two newspapers to take up the full quota of eight memberships permitted under ASNE by-laws in cities over 100,000 population. The goal was achieved with the election, in April, of Philip M. Wagner, editor of The Sun, and Newton Aiken, editor of The Evening Sun.

The other six: Paul Patterson, general manager of the Sunpapers; Hamilton Owens, their editor-in-chief; Maclean Patterson and Neil H. Swanson, managing and executive editors, respectively, of the morning paper; Miles H. Wolff, managing editor of the evening; and H. Lowrey Cooling, editor of The Sunday Sun.

News of Members

Thomas C. Smallsreed, youngest son of George Smallsreed, managing editor of the Columbus Dispatch, was graduated last month from Capital University, where his father, who is chairman of the Board of Regents, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree last commencement. George, Jr., his oldest son, came back from four years in the Navy, started from scratch as a newspaper photographer and is already winning prizes for his work.

Charles J. Lewin, editor of the New Bedford Standard-Times, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa Associates, whose membership is limited to 200 Phi Beta Kappa who have demonstrated achievement in their chosen fields.

NOVEL SUGGESTIONS MARK DISCUSSION OF BANQUET

Too Many Fat Cats

WALTER M. HARRISON, Oklahoma City, ASNE past president: I was one of those who was so far away from the speaker's table that I could not be sure whether it was President Truman or Calvin Coolidge who was speaking. The distant ante-room in which I was seated was on a direct line to the rest rooms. The casual drunks and indifferent guests, who preferred prowling to listening, assisted in ruining the party completely for us. I saw some fat cats, lobbyists and hangers-on occupying the seats of the mighty underneath the microphone, and felt very much like I had been retired into outer darkness because of the growing importance of the ASNE's annual banquet to the climbers who habitually attach themselves to visiting editors.

If our annual dinner has to duplicate the perennial gatherings of the United States Chamber of Commerce, let us at least assign the insistent multitude to the outer darkness beyond the main banquet hall, and give the men and women who have devoted their lives to editorial leadership a chance to visit with their lifelong friends.

A Vote for Overcrowding

FRITZ S. UPDIKE, Rome (N. Y.) Sentinel: I'd like to register my vote for the present practice of overcrowding at the banquet...

Over a three-year period, my wife and I were able to have our two daughters and son, one each year, at the banquet with us. One of the girls at the time was a journalism student. Our children naturally were thrilled. A definite rule limiting banquet parties to two would have made this impossible.

We have been at Table 9, 20 and 70-something, last table to the lobby, without complaint. Certainly the rule, first come first seated is fair.

Here's a vote for things as they were in 1948.

In Defense of Personal Guests

W. W. WARD, Beaumont Journal: It seems to me the limit of four tickets is a reasonable curb and if the membership grows so large that it overtaxes the capac-

ity of the Statler, that would be plenty of time to reduce it to three, or two if necessary.

If a member has no other guest, his wife and perhaps a Washington bureau would make three. And I think it desirable for out-of-towners, who get to Washington only once or twice a year, to have someone along to point out the celebrities and incidentally for the member perhaps to repay an invitation to the Gridiron dinner or some other Washington event.

Wants Large Parties Put in Rear

MELVILLE F. FERGUSON, Philadelphia Bulletin: Having had close-up and telescopic views of the speakers' table, I am qualified to propose a fair procedure:

Allot two seats in the main room to each member, available up to within one week of the banquet date, on a first come, first served basis. Members desiring to entertain larger numbers should be content to accept suburban locations in order not to deprive other members of the opportunity to sit in the main room.

Thinks Only Directors Can Tell

FRED C. CHRISTOPHERSON, Sioux Falls Daily Argus, hopes the guest privilege will be continued; but believing in the republican form of government, leaves the solution to the directors "with complete confidence in their good judgment."

★ ★ ★

Reflecting the same attitude, A. L. MILLER, Battle Creek Enquirer and News, adds, "The spirit with which this issue is being discussed seems to me one of the many evidences of healthy life in the Society."

★ ★ ★

Only One Wife

JOHN K. QUAD, New Brunswick Home News: The ASNE is growing each year and soon the size of the organization will make it impossible to allow more than two tickets per member.

Put me down for four tickets next April but expect no complaint if the decision is to limit each member to one guest as I have only one wife.

Would Invite Guests To Luncheons

JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Tulsa Tribune: Let's try Ben McKelway's suggestion. Friends can be taken care of by inviting them to the luncheons. The banquet should be so arranged that every member can see and hear.

Members First—Guests Second

JOSEPH F. SMILEY, Tampa Daily Times: I travel close to 1000 miles to attend the annual meeting and feel that I am entitled to participate in all ASNE activities, and this includes having a seat at the banquet where I can see and hear what is taking place. It has been my fate a number of years to be banished to the "Siberian" section...

Programs of the Society should be for members first—guests second. When member seat requests have been taken care of, then it is time enough to allow others to share in our excellent program.

Had Televised View

DAVID PATTEN, Providence Journal-Bulletin: I am all for Mr. McKelway's suggestion. If you sit in the back of the room you might as well be getting the program by television.

★ ★ ★

A. M. PIPER, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, doesn't want to see banquet tickets limited to two, "unless it is absolutely necessary."

EDWARD J. MEEMAN, Memphis Press-Scimitar, and LEWIS R. HOVEY, Haverhill (Mass.) Sunday Record favor the limitation.

★ ★ ★

ELMER F. CUNNINGHAM, Wilmington Journal-Every Evening, votes for two, any space left to be filled by some fair method of distribution, "perhaps on a seniority basis."

Suggests Guests of the Society

JOHN P. HARRIS, Hutchinson News-Herald: Would a satisfactory way out be to confine the attendance to members and their wives, with 50 to 100 guests invited by the organization itself, acting through the directors?

Editor Says Fetish of Protecting News Sources Can Be Obstruction of Justice

When the Tennessee Press Association was reported to be drawing up proposed legislation "to protect newspapermen in the performance of their duty," Guy L. Smith, editor of The Knoxville Journal, was against it. His reason provides at least a partial explanation of the minority viewpoint when the subject was under debate at the convention.

The background: In a story in the Nashville Tennessean, a capable young reporter (the adjectives are Mr. Smith's), Nat Caldwell, charged an unlawful connection in neighboring Anderson County, between certain liquor interests and members of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The patrol came clear for lack of evidence; but the judge considered holding Mr. Caldwell in contempt for refusing to give the names of his informants, later decided to drop the matter.

When the legal proceedings were over, Mr. Smith wrote an editorial captioned, "Newspapermen Should Shoulder Normal Citizenship Obligations."

"Like every other newspaperman," he said, "we believe thoroughly in the protection of news sources as a general principle. If one of our reporters obtains information from a person who makes his own anonymity a requirement, then if we believe the information reliable, we will resist any and all demands for his identity—with one exception. That is when the news or information obtained from the anonymous sources becomes a matter of interest to some court of law."

"As we see it, when this becomes the case, a newspaper has no more right to conceal information than has any other private citizen. To assume that it has is to concede to the newspaper a place of privilege in society and before the courts which, in our conviction, is pure assumption."

An individual making charges such as Mr. Caldwell's could be held in contempt for refusing to give information to a grand jury, Mr. Smith continued, and a newspaper is "a sort of composite citizen."

"Our feeling," he concluded, "is that in the Anderson County case the fact that a fetish was made of protecting news sources was an

obstruction of justice, assuming that Mr. Caldwell's information was correct. If there was, or does exist, a sinister connection between certain highway patrolmen and Anderson County liquor interests, certainly breaking up that connection was of greater importance to the public than maintaining the anonymity of the bootleggers who gave the information in the first place . . .

"We hope the Tennessee Legislature will not consider constituting newspapermen a privileged class by relieving them of the normal obligations of citizenship."

Publishers' Bulletin Defines 'Newspaperboy'

An ANPA bulletin defines a newsboy as one who sells papers at a designated spot; a vendor maintains a stand; a carrier delivers to subscribers; or "newspaperboy" (one word, no hyphen) may apply to all of them. Urging correct usage in newspaper stories, the bulletin adds that calling a carrier a "newsie" often causes his parents embarrassment.

Any ASNE editor who began his career as a carrier is requested to report whether his mother hung her head in shame if he was referred to as a "newsie."

Meanwhile, in a spirit of investigation, we asked a half a dozen non-professional friends, "What do you call the boy who delivers your newspaper?" And each of them answered, "The paper boy, of course!"

Geneva Conference Report

Publication 3150, Department of State, is a booklet of more than ordinary interest to ASNE members. Besides the Report of the United States Delegates to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information at Geneva last Spring, and the Final Act of the Conference, it contains material on the subject in handy form for editorial reference.

Post Anniversary Supplement

"Fifteen Exciting Years," 24-page tabloid anniversary edition of The Washington Post, modestly

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confines Post promotion and the accomplishments of its distinguished owner, Eugene Meyer, to the middle spread. The rest, in "I Distinctly Remember—" vein, reviews national and world events, pointing them up with historic news pictures.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(As of May 31, 1948)

U. S. Savings Bonds . . . \$ 2,500.00
Troy Savings Bank . . . 2,021.97
Riggs National Bank . . . 12,220.78

Bal. on hand in banks
and bonds . . . \$16,742.75

CONVENTION INCOME

Registrations,
banquet tickets . . . \$15,372.00
Less refunds . . . 1,191.50

\$14,180.50

CONVENTION EXPENSE

Banquet . . . \$ 8,429.19
Luncheons . . . 3,798.60
Reporting convention . . . 881.39
Miscellaneous . . . 517.54

\$13,626.72

Convention Balance . . . \$553.78

(Printing of Proceedings still to be paid for. And yes, \$1,191.50 for refunds is correct; policy of letting members turn in tickets until the last minute will be abandoned next year.—Editor's Note.)

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 300

August 1, 1948

RADIO AND VIDEO — PAMPERED PETS

Clarvoe Tells of Irritations by Technology Boys
And Suggests That ASNE Do Something About It

• By FRANK CLARVOE, Editor, The San Francisco News

Television may have put the heat on the press, at long last, to do something to protect itself against the competition of instantaneous communication.

As the medium of record, the newspaper need not greatly fear that radio or television will put it out of business. People buy more papers than ever before, even against the competitive energy of radio; the reason being that most people are poor listeners. They must pick up the pieces of the news, must reassure themselves that they got it correctly, by reference to the printed page. Television will probably not make existing competition any harder to bear.

Then why should I or anyone else be even mildly irritated by radio or television competition? It's a matter of pride, I suppose. For one thing, we work to collect and turn out news in the form of printed papers while another medium is giving out instant, so to speak. Far too often, a story we have worked on, perhaps for days, is published and the radio picks it up the moment the sheet hits the street—and before it can be delivered to homes. We should have some protection against that sort of thing.

In many instances, too, I have seen events held up until the radio lads could tune in their equipment, and the station is ready to put that particular event on the air. What could have been a lovely California centennial blowout up in our hills not so long ago was wrung dry of any interest because nobody could do anything at the jamboree which would offend the rules of radio; and things otherwise were quite formalized.

Now comes television, and not only do all the sounds have to be just right, but the scene as well.

No newspaperman could have the slightest objection — although he might have some resentment because of professional pride — at either radio or television getting their stuff to the scene of a natural breaking story, such as fire, riot, war, conventions, meetings of Congress, a President's speech, or



FRANK CLARVOE

whatever. We must take our chances on that, and do a little better job of making the thing interesting, even as a delayed action fuse.

What gripes me most is coverage of the set affair, such as a staged event or, of recent annoyance and modern development, the press conference. Press conferences are poisonous affairs, anyway. In the old days, an enterprising reporter caught his quarry in his shower or on the street, and got an interview. Now and far too often, ask an important man a question, and he parries with: "Yes, quite so; I'm just about to call a press conference on that."

So not only do a reporter's competitors horn in, but along comes a guy with a mike under his arm; and a truck unloads the television equipment. Reporters who have lived with events very closely for a long time ask questions from their store of knowledge; and not only their own uninformed brethren get aboard for a free ride, but radio and television does, too. And we

must sit around until the technology boys get all set.

It curbs the behavior of the interviewee, too. He can't get a few lusty wallops off his chest, knowing the newspaper reporters will clean it up for him. He's got to be oh, so awful good because somebody of importance is out there looking at a television screen.

For years and years reporters have been tidying the language and correcting the grammar of VIP's. With television adding to the test radio has already applied, he's on his own. Never again will I fix his split infinitives.

There are able reporters in radio, and doubtless in television. But let them go on their own way, say I. If there's to be some sort of set event which radio and television should cover, give them their own time either before or after the ladies and gentlemen with the pads and pencils have done their stuff. Maybe it should be before, to give us a better chance of breaking even on the news with the folks at home.

Perhaps the solution to this problem, if it is a problem, could with considerable advantage engage the best brains of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. With me, it's merely in the "beef" stage.

Canham Is Honored By Paris Conference

Election of Erwin D. Canham to the vice presidency of the International Federation of Journalists in Paris, June 23, was tentative, based on acceptance of membership in the Federation by ASNE. Mr. Canham will consult the Board, and possibly the membership, for a decision.

Unable to attend the meeting, the ASNE president appointed Volney Hurd, of the Paris Bureau of The Christian Science Monitor, and Geoffrey Parsons, Jr., of the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune, to represent the Society. Their reports also will be presented to the directors at their fall meeting.

'WHY I FAVOR (OR OPPOSE) NEWS CONFIDENCE LAWS'

Short Step to Licensing

• By WALTER LISTER, Managing Editor
The Philadelphia Bulletin

I spoke briefly against newspaper confidence legislation at the ASNE meeting and still feel the same way.

I think Guy L. Smith sums up very well (July Bulletin) the legal and ethical case against it in saying that a newspaper cannot have a right which is denied to the average citizen. As an extreme example, if a newspaper should publish a story saying that it



WALTER LISTER

had learned "from unimpeachable sources" that New York City's water supply was to be poisoned by enemy agents next Tuesday, it could hardly defend a refusal to give the authorities all the information it possessed. I can also see some latent dangers in such legislation, for privilege and regulation often go hand in hand. Thus while it is true that physicians and attorneys enjoy a limited right not to betray confidences, it is equally true that members of both professions operate under state license, and this license can be suspended or revoked for misconduct, including, presumably, misuse of confidence. It is not inconceivable that some legislature might extend confidence to "bona fide" newspaper men, and then set up certain standards which would have to be met. It is a short step from there to licensing. I assume that licensing could be upset as a violation of the First Amendment, but why should we ever risk getting into such a snarl in the first place?

On a practical basis alone, it seems to me that a chief result of such legislation would be to encourage phony stories by harum-scarum reporters on second-rate newspapers. In about twenty years on city desks I have never seen at close range any situation in which a good reporter needed the protection of a confidence law. The Newburgh case, which apparently has stimulated the current discussion, is undoubtedly a clear-cut example

of a judge being oppressive. But even there it seems to me that the newspaper came out well ahead of the judge in the court of public opinion and that any other newspaper whose hands are clean can do the same.

Far more pressing, it seems to me, is the need of legislation protecting and widening the access to public records and providing for minutes of legislative debates and minor court hearings.

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Public Gain Is Patent

• BY WILBUR FORREST
Assistant Editor
New York Herald Tribune

Mr. Smith, of Knoxville, is basing his judgment on a single, local case in Tennessee and his argument has merit on that basis. There are, however, so many cases of record where confidential admissions to newspapermen have turned up evidence of great and enduring importance to the community that I would dare to risk an occasional miscarriage of justice.

I was therefore glad recently to appear before the law revision committee of the State Legislature to urge an immunity law in the State of New York. It stands to reason that an informer will not often volunteer information to the law, because of fear of implicating himself. If, however, he has a guarantee that he may talk without risk to someone who would report to the law, then he will talk.

False information by this route will not long stand investigation. The truth, however, cannot often be knocked down, and in the long run the public gain is patent.

The committee of the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors, of which Harold Sanford of Rochester is chairman, plans to submit to the Legislature many bona fide cases in which the public cause has been served through information via newspapers — and information which positively would not have been volunteered to the district attorney.

Of course the newspaper should be responsible, as always, to the laws of libel and should not be permitted to save itself by exposing the source of its information without the consent of the individual who originally provided it.

Oldest Press Ethic

• By HAROLD W. SANFORD, Editor
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

It seems to me that Knoxville editor Guy Smith makes the same mistake in his attitude toward legal recognition of newspaper men's protection of confidential sources that many lawyers and legislators do. That is, they conceive it as a special privilege for the benefit of newspaper men themselves.

Neither this oldest and best-kept ethic of the newspaper calling, nor the well recognized principle of press freedom, are maintained for the benefit of newspaper men. Press freedom is based on the right of the people to know; the confidence ethic is asserted and recognized to support newspapers' historical function of keeping public officials on their toes.

It is theoretically possible that the "privilege" might be abused, but inquiries State Senator Thomas C. Desmond of this state made recently of attorney generals and enforcement officials in the eleven states which recognize it brought definite replies that the protection law not only had not interfered with enforcement, but in some cases helped it.

I do not regard the Nashville incident Mr. Smith cites as conclusive against assertion of the ethic in courts of law. If collusion actually existed between certain highway patrolmen and Anderson County liquor interests, public pressure resulting from the Tennessee article should have put the authorities sufficiently on the spot so they actually would have discovered evidence on their own. The fact that the authorities instead turned on the newspaper reporter would indicate to an outsider that they were more interested in stopping the bootlegger's leak than in uncovering and dealing with the situation.

If the newspaper's only intimation of such collusion was one bit of information acquired by one reporter it did not show proper



HAROLD SANFORD

responsibility in publishing the charge.

At a recent conference of our State Editors' committee with the New York State Law Revision Commission on a proposed confidence law, one district attorney argued in its favor that "if newspaper men can be compelled to reveal sources of information from which they obtained facts then those sources can be shut off. When they are shut off, news becomes subject to censorship and control."

Another lawyer, chairman of the State Bar committee to cooperate with the Commission, admitted that the privilege, if granted, might be abused. He argued for it generally, but suggested that only when the situation involves a felony, and then only if it is definitely established that the authorities have reached a dead end and the information can be obtained only from the newspaper man, should the newspaper man be required to divulge his source.

Personally, I regretted that the matter was brought up at the last ASNE convention. I agree with many other members who responded to my Bulletin request for their reasons in opposing the resolution that this was a matter primarily for state editors' societies and state legislators. If there had been opportunity for discussion I would have pressed some of the arguments I have used here. All I could do was to express my frank amazement that any newspaper man would oppose the principle. That amazement applies to Mr. Smith's views.

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Editor Still a Citizen

• By H. W. KENDALL, Editor
Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News

I was among those editors who voted against the resolution asking protection of newspaper men against divulgence of their sources of information. I simply cannot see where or how being a newspaper editor relieves me of the responsibility of citizenship; rather it seems to me that my editorship accentuates these responsibilities since I am always preaching about them to others and urging citizens generally to meet them.

If I have information which the Grand jury or law enforcement officers wish to clean up a bad situation against which I have probably been railing, why shouldn't I

give them that information? If I have sound and conscientious reasons for not divulging this information or its source, I still do not have to supply it. Few courts are going to crack down under such circumstances and I have never yet heard, in the rare instances where they have cracked down, where a citation for contempt did not help an editor and his cause instead of hinder them.

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Aids Law Enforcement

By DWIGHT PERRIN, Executive Editor
Syracuse Herald-Journal

The legislative committee of the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors, under the chairmanship of Harold E. Sanford of Rochester, is doing a first-class job in support of the proposed newspaper confidence laws in that state.

The State Law Revision commission, an impartial body, has held several hearings in the matter and will recommend a course of procedure to the next legislature.

It seems to me that opponents of so-called confidence laws, as they affect newspapermen, lose sight of the fact that the aim and purpose of preserving a confidence is to help, rather than hinder, law enforcement agencies and the courts. If an informant can be assured that his identity will be kept secret in a news story designed to guard the public interest, he will certainly feel more free to talk than he would if his livelihood, or even his life, were endangered by publicity involving his name. There are, and have been, some rascals in district attorneys' offices and even on the bench. Why should not a public-spirited newspaper be protected in its efforts to serve its readers and the community as a whole by laws of the sort that protect lawyers, physicians, and clergymen?

The experience of the eleven states which have these laws indicates that they are working well and serving a useful purpose.

Whirlwind Patterson

Grove Patterson left for Europe directly after the ASNE convention, wrote 49 columns for the Toledo Blade on his 51-day stay; returned in time to cover the Republican convention; went home for a breather before setting forth for the Democratic convention. No word on whether he returned to Philadelphia a third time, or let Wallace fend for himself.

'Imagine-eering' Needed By Papers

• By TALBOT PATRICK, Editor
The Evening Herald, Rock Hill, S. C.

N. W. Ayer & Son sent to publishers and to their mechanical superintendents copies of a booklet, "Trends in Newspaper Typography." It is based on the annual Ayer competitions. Awards in these, though said to be for typography, include not only selection and arrangement of type as basis for judgment, but also make-up pages and quality of presswork.

There are stimulating statements in the booklet, stimulating to those who believe departure from traditionalism can make for better legibility and readability.

But it seems to me that even award winners still suffer greatly from the stick-in-the-mud-mindedness of the printer. When it comes to type, and even more when layout is considered, the mind of the average printer is about as flexible as type metal—not metal in rule form, but 120 point foundry type metal.

Newspapers sometimes pay good money to consultants for advice on new type faces, page arrangements, etc. What are these consultants? Printers!

I'd like to see on the next ASNE convention program a discussion by at least two art directors of what could be done to make newspaper pages more attractive at first sight and more readable, forgetting the "mechanical limitations" we hear so much about. Let one art director be a magazine man, one an advertising agency man. Follow this up by discussion by two or three members of the Society, representing newspapers which have tried to break away from composing room control of the appearance of the paper (or the composing room frame of mind, sometimes found in the offices of publishers as rigidly frozen as in a cold metal pot).

The content of our news columns, and of some of our editorial columns, has improved far more than the form in which we offer it to our customers. I believe ASNE members are competent to initiate great improvements without the use of photo-engraving of whole pages, offset, gravure, or any other change from present mechanical processes. To swipe somebody else's word, what is needed is some "imagine-eering."

Do Doctors And Health Boards Co-operate on Polio Coverage?

To newspapermen, complete coverage of an epidemic is spreading the light; to doctors and health boards, the same stories often are "only alarming the public unnecessarily."

Two members were asked to report on the situation in the state hardest hit by polio this year.

• By E. B. HUNTER, Managing Editor
The Charlotte Observer

• By WALTER S. ADAMS, Editor
The Asheville Times

Practically every time a community is struck by a polio epidemic a few physicians, including some health officers, accuse newspapers of publishing stories about the disease calculated to alarm the public, especially if you display your story with more than a double column head.

North Carolina is now in the midst of perhaps its worst infantile paralysis epidemic. There are more than 600 cases reported in North Carolina; 60 of these cases are in the Charlotte area.

Soon after the outbreak the city health officer and a few pediatricians called a press conference to point out to newsmen that their stories of the disease had unduly disturbed many mothers. Newsmen pointed out to the doctors that the concealment of such information would in no way ease the tension of the community, and, moreover, that an honest newspaper could not withhold or even minimize too much such factual reports.

As the epidemic grew more desperate the health authorities began releasing to the newspapers articles containing information of general interest to the public. Most of these articles pointed out how the public could help in fighting the disease. All of their releases were given proper display.

I believe the protesting doctors are now convinced that the Charlotte newspapers handled the situation in a forthright manner. Incidentally, I have not heard one person, other than the few doctors, complain about the handling of such stories.

Personally, I think it is the duty of newspapers to co-operate with health authorities in any emergency, but it is my opinion that it is unwise to permit a few doctors to attempt to dictate how such stories should be handled. They don't know too much about polio and they perhaps know less about how news stories should be handled.

I do not recall a situation of this kind in which there was more solid agreement by newspapers, radio, public health officials, medical societies and private physicians on the handling of news, information and comment. Almost from the first all these agencies—in their own way and with no planned collaboration—seemed to realize that the public wanted all the facts about this thing, was entitled to have them, and undertook to tell the whole truth about it without delays or any beating around the bush.

Under somewhat similar circumstances in the past this was not the case. Then, there were grave doubts about the proper policy to follow, much confusion and heated arguments behind closed doors. Why the changed attitude?

Perhaps we have all developed a more mature judgment and now face the grim realities of life without pussy-footing. Perhaps the war and the general chaos that still grips the world have made practical realists out of a lot of folks who formerly were inclined to hide their heads in the sand when trouble approached.

Anyway, no important North Carolina newspapers that I know of have hesitated to keep their readers fully informed about all developments in the polio epidemic. They assured them that all the facts were being made public just as fast as they became known by the authorities. They have freely discussed the facts in editorials, cautioning against hysteria and the spreading of unconfirmed rumors.

There were a few protests at first (maybe they were from selfish business interests) about this frank method of dealing with the public, but they were inconsequential. We had none from physicians. Instead, some of the medical societies released statements to the press, and took to the radio, telling the public what medical science knew, and didn't know, about this

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7950.

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insidious disease and suggesting precautionary measures.

Newspapers should know by now that the best defense against public hysteria and rumor mongering is to publish the full truth—and convince their readers they are doing just that. Besides, we are in the news business and if a polio epidemic isn't news, then neither is a war, an earthquake, a flood, a fire or any other disaster.

Mrs. Eleanor Patterson

The Society lost one of its four women members when Mrs. Eleanor Patterson, editor and publisher of the Washington Times-Herald, died on July 24. Mrs. Patterson joined ASNE twelve years ago, as editor of the Washington Herald, and for several years was the only woman on the roll.

'Some Southwestern Trails'

Seven authors, a famous artist, a newspaper and an oil company got together to produce, "Some Southwestern Trails." Inception of the idea was a series of distinctive advertisements, of The Shamrock Oil and Gas Corporation of Amarillo, based on local history and lore. Houston Harte sought permission to print them in the San Angelo Standard-Times. Now, enlarged and illustrated, they have appeared in a handsome brochure, a limited edition of 1,000 copies.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 301

September 1, 1948

PRESIDENT URGES AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

• By Erwin D. Canham, Editor, Christian Science Monitor

One of the most important decisions the ASNE Board of Directors will have to take at the November meeting concerns possible affiliation with the International Federation of Editors and Publishers.

At an organizing meeting of this Federation in Paris, in June, no officer of the ASNE could be present, but I asked Volney D. Hurd, chief of the Paris Bureau of The Christian Science Monitor and Geoffrey Parsons, Jr., editor of the New York Herald Tribune (Paris edition) to serve as observers for ASNE at the organizing meetings. I have received the full official reports of the meetings.

The national editors' or publishers' organizations of the following countries are the charter members: Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland. Messrs. Hurd and Parsons report to me that they were much impressed with the high quality of the editors or publishers who participated. Some of both categories were represented, since newspaper organization differs so widely in the countries involved. The Newspaper Society of Great Britain was represented by its president, H. N. Heywood, of Kemsley Newspapers, Ltd. Other representation was of a comparable level.

The purpose of the organization as stated in its constitution is "to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security by facilitating the free circulation of ideas by word and image." Article III of its constitution says that the Federation "has for its object the consideration of all questions of interest to newspapers, the solution of which can be attained in full or in part on the international plane, with the exception of questions of a political order."

The three-day meetings were orderly and constructive. A full constitution was adopted and officers were elected. I was elected Vice-President, provisional upon affiliation of the ASNE. Senator Johan Van de Kieft, Director of "The Free People," Amsterdam, was elected President.

An important part of the business was the discussion of the newsprint problem, on which the delegates took a broad and sensible view, demanding action by their own governments to put a higher priority on the importation of newsprint and development of manufacturing facilities. There was no criticism whatever of consumption of newsprint in countries which still have large supply.

The most important step following the organization of this new Federation is that it is now recognized by the United Nations, and by UNESCO. At all future international meetings of these groups when non-governmental organizations are invited to attend, the press will no longer be represented exclusively by the Communist-dominated International Organization of Journalists. The new federation will be present to speak up for the interests of editors and publishers.

The entire question of affiliation with the Federation will be discussed at the November Directors' meeting. My own personal viewpoint, as expressed at the ASNE annual meeting in April, is that American editors can contribute much more to a free press in other countries through association with other editors, and with publishers, than they can through governmental or diplomatic channels. Therefore, I strongly welcome the formation of this non-governmental federation, and hope the ASNE decides to affiliate.

PRESIDENT CANHAM has named L. R. Blanchard, general executive editor of The Gannett Newspapers, Rochester, N. Y., as membership chairman. Members of the committee will be announced next month.

Basil L. Walters, executive editor of Knight Newspapers, Chicago, will serve as chairman of the World Freedom of Information committee. Other members of the group, which Mr. Canham headed last year, will hold over. They are: Leon Stolz, Chicago Tribune; Lester Markel, New York Times; Samuel L. Latimer, Jr., Columbia State; and Felix McKnight, Dallas Morning News.

Notice to Members

I am asked by President Truman and Secretary Marshall to ask American newspapers to do their part in the observance of United Nations Day, to be held throughout the world on Oct. 24, 1948. This day was decided upon largely by American private citizens. It is their aim to establish a "Fourth of July for the World."

The purpose of the day is to call attention to citizens everywhere of the need of pursuing and making a reality of the peace purposes of the United Nations. Full information regarding United Nations Day will no doubt be available through customary channels. This is simply to convey to you that the American press is earnestly asked to give the occasion proper attention.

—E.D.C.

Proceedings Mailed

The Problems of Journalism. Proceedings of the 1948 ASNE convention in book form, was sent to members on August 16. Any member who has not received his copy may have one by writing Secretary Wright Bryan at the Atlanta Journal; extra copies available at nominal cost.

Newspapers Can Demand Records Selfishly Hidden

• By W. S. KIRKPATRICK
Managing Editor, Atlanta Journal

Public officials generally are glad to make available to newspapers public records favorable to themselves, or ones in which they or their friends or associates have no personal or political interest.

It is when the records reflect in some way on the official himself, his superiors, his relatives, his friends, or his party interests that he is likely to try to conceal them.

But there are other circumstances, too, that may cause him to try this. For instance, not long ago our courthouse reporter learned that a certain important will had been filed for probate. Lawyers and beneficiaries had asked the county ordinary (the probate judge) to keep its contents secret from the press. He tried to do so. Our attorney accompanied the reporter to the courthouse and demand for inspection of the will was made. When the ordinary again refused, the attorney threatened mandamus action. The will was then made accessible.

Generally speaking, public records are legally available and public officials can be forced by court action to make them accessible. But there are exceptions, such as FBI records, personal income tax returns which are protected by law, and other records which officials might withhold properly. For instance, a judge might properly impound and keep secret, pending their use in a trial, certain public records theretofore concealed. Of course, these would become public when used as evidence. But if they were not eventually so used, they would be subject to court action to compel their being made public.

The recent refusal of President Truman to make available to the House un-American activities committee certain spy investigation reports which were in his hands involves the principle of administration discriminatory authority. This, our attorney informs me, his never been tested in court. Maybe the president is within his rights in withholding these records, and maybe not. Certainly he cannot be sued. But mem-

"Far more pressing (than newspaper confidence laws), it seems to me, is the need of legislation protecting and widening access to public records and providing for minutes of legislative debates and minor court hearings."—Walter Lister, Philadelphia Bulletin, in the August ASNE Bulletin.

bers of his cabinet have no such immunity.

As I see it, present laws pretty well take care of the situation in most of those cases we are apt to run up against in practice. Our difficulties are likely to come chiefly from bucking human nature and selfish interests. The law, I believe, will back us up in most cases in which the right of the public to know what is in the concealed records is paramount.

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Corporation News Harder To Crack

• By H. R. PINCKARD, Editor
Huntington Herald-Advertiser

I find it quite impossible to disagree with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Walter Lister. After all, public records are public records—or aren't they?

On the other hand, I find it equally impossible to become exercised about the point Mr. Lister raises. Our local minions of government are only too glad—yea, eager—to thrust their records into the hands of the working press. Fact is, they're a damned nuisance. Now if Mr. Lister had only turned the torrent of his umbrage against the public relations departments of utilities and corporations having plants in several cities, I would have leaped to congratulate him.

The other day a reporter came to me with a tip on a new process recently installed on the production line of a local plant. Inquiries drew guarded replies—first outright denial, then the firm declaration that even if such things were going on, Detroit (or New York, or Cleveland, as the case might be) would have to release the story.

Calls to the general offices met with brusque impatience. If we would be good enough to bide our time, PR would service us with such facts as PR thought we required. Need I add that we gnashed our teeth in furious impotence and then—when the PR story finally arrived—tossed it into the wastebasket?

Access To Public Welfare Rolls Is Recommended

• By WILLIAM H. HEATH, Editor
The Haverhill Gazette

Walter Lister's opinion reminds me of a type of public record that is locked as securely as the confidences in possession of doctors and priests.

This is the record of persons receiving any of the various kinds of public welfare. I am thinking particularly of persons on direct relief and persons collecting unemployment compensation.

In the past generation there has been developed to the proportions of a great oak the idea there is so much dignity in indigence that being in want is nothing to be ashamed of. Result is millions of folks, a good share of the time, live off the funds that taxes build up for those really in need.

I know workers who plan their lives so they are employed but 30 weeks a year and enjoy the rest on the unemployment compensation they can so easily collect.

The theory is they must lose the benefit if they are offered a job they can do, but few lose the easy money this way—at least in my state. Here, the job offer must come through the unemployment service. A private employer, pleading with a beneficiary to go to work, can't get him off the compensation rolls.

If the press had access to such records, more could be done toward getting rid of chisellers and reducing waste than could be accomplished by all the investigators a bureaucrat's imagination could mobilize.

It would be a good idea if governments were required to print in legal advertisements the names of all beneficiaries of public funds, but I don't advocate it. Newsprint is still too tight. Neither do I advocate, for something of the same reason, voluntary publication by the press of such lists. Mere access to them would be enough to bring about extensive reform by a curious and energetic press.

WHAT PUTS EDITORS IN THE NEWS

Tom Wallace Declares Writers Have Shed Their Anonymity By Keeping In Touch With Human Life Far From the Office

The following article by Tom Wallace comes as the former ASNE president is concluding a long and notable career as editor of the Louisville Times to become its editor emeritus.

In announcing that Mr. Wallace will write a twice-weekly signed column, Barry Bingham said, in a Courier-Journal editorial, "The man who saved Cumberland Falls for the State when it was threatened with extinction by the power interests will continue his zealous crusade for protection of natural resources. The man who has traveled widely in Latin America . . . looking for knowledge and for ways to promote international friendship, will travel usefully and broadly in the future."

• By TOM WALLACE, Editor, The Louisville Times

I was asked recently whether editors of daily newspapers are shedding the anonymity which clothed them 20 years ago, or whether the fact that a few of them were referred to in magazine articles and in news columns was misleading.

I am not sure I can say why editors are more in the news nowadays than they were before Billy Rose made his successful debut in United States journalism; when serious columnists who wrote upon government and politics were taken more seriously than they are today. I am not sure, although being noisily cocksure, even when wrong, is my distinguishing characteristic. But I believe it is because more publishers are awake to the importance of allowing, even encouraging, their editors to get in touch and keep in touch with human life outside of the office, outside of town, outside of the State and outside of the country.

It is all but impossible for a man to become known by writing editorials. William Allen White never relied upon editorial writing solely, or mainly. When one thinks of his editorials one thinks of "What's the Matter with Kansas," written in his youth, and "Mary White," written when he was a bereaved father. As an author, a lecturer, a man who took an interest in politics, Mr. White went about, met people, learned from them, wrote about them. His predecessor, as the only famous American editor of his period, Henry Watterson, had a publisher—White was his own publisher—who didn't think of his editor's sojourns in Washington, New York, Florida, New Orleans, Paris, Madrid, London or Berlin as time wasted, or even as time off, but as time wisely invested.

I am forever quoting "Marse Henry" as having said the only editor who could amount to anything was a man of salient characteristics owning a majority of the stock. That statement, like most things said pungently, was exaggeration. Mr. Watterson didn't



own a majority of the stock. But he didn't spend his life in a cubbyhole ten doors west, north, south, or east of the business office and let cobwebs collect in his mind.

There has been, always, some publishers who realized the importance of writers getting about, and more who didn't. When, in 1927, the Carnegie Foundation for Peace—if I use the exact title—invited 25 editors to make, at its expense, "a clinical examination of post-war Europe," a California publisher reacted by handing his editor a check for \$1,000, in recognition of his having been sufficiently known to be invited, and a Middle West publisher, whose paper was a gold mine, wouldn't allow his invited man time off for the ten weeks' trip!

Ralph McGill couldn't be worth to the Atlanta Constitution what he is worth if he had the idea that he must be in his office eight hours a day six days a week.

Twenty years ago many publishers, especially bush leaguers,

were white slaves of New York blurb artists who were advertising canned comment as an improvement upon editorial columns. Nowadays not so many of them believe editorial page supplantable. That might be why editors are sometimes in magazines or news columns nowadays, without figuring in pistol duels or horsewhip incidents, as in days of old.

Someone will say I oppose use of syndicated columns. I don't and I never did. Years ago I ranted against promotional efforts which represented syndicated commentators as above prejudice, above error, a 'must' for readers wanting something better than editorials reflecting prejudice and ignorance, and the attitude of publishers taken in by such efforts. I think many syndicated columns excellent public service, and tiptop newspaper features.

'Demos' One Thing, Democrats Another

• By J. N. HEISKELL, Editor
Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock

Some copy readers, in the process of compressing headline words into the similitude of a deflated accordion, are continually using Demos for Democrats.

Demos is of course a word that English has borrowed from Greek, and it doesn't mean members of Mr. Truman's political party. Such use of it must jar everybody who knows enough Greek to order soup in the Anglo-Athenian spoken behind certain refectory counters.

When the orators of Attica used the word demos (in their language), it meant the common people; the populace. It cannot properly be used to describe us patriots now holding most of the federal jobs.

The copy readers who called Democrats "Demos" might some time, in a headline, have to use the word in its true sense. And what would the poor fellow do then?

We should put the Attic in our Greek instead of putting our Greek in the attic.

Two Resignations

Two resignations have been received by Secretary Wright Bryan: Bryan Collier, formerly Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Dispatch, and Robert S. Harper, formerly Columbus (O.) State Journal. Both have left newspaper work.

Out in Southern Oregon, Editors Sign Editorials, And the Customers Love It

• By FRANK JENKINS, Editor and Publisher
Klamath Falls Herald and News

I'm interested in Tom Wallace's contention in the September Bulletin that editors should get out among 'em. We country newspaper people have known that always. Out in the sticks, the editor who doesn't get out and talk to the customers is a quick flop. Either he's good enough to bring people in to talk to him or he gets out and talks to them.

But something new is entering the country field. More and more editors are signing their stuff. Our little crowd in Southern Oregon has been doing it for years. I had to dragoon them into starting it. They were modest. They thought putting their names to it smacked of stuffed-shirtism. Or maybe they remembered the old days when giving a guy a by-line was a substitute for more pay. But they all like it now. They say they get ten times as much reaction from readers—and after you've written the stuff you like to hear from somebody who has read it.

I know the attitude of metropolitans on the subject. One of them put it to me like this a while back: "Sure it might get more readers, but suppose we build up some editorial writer by running his stuff under his name and a competitor down the street hires him away from us. Where are we then?"

My personal conviction is that what one flesh and blood man thinks is more important than what some editorial board decides ought to be thought. More to the point, I'm finding by experience that readers find it more interesting—and we're looking for readers who are interested in editorials.

I know the other side of the story. It runs something like this: "A newspaper is a superhuman intellect. The multiple massive brains that make up its intellect are collectively more Godlike than a single brain can be. People want THE WORD." I doubt it. I'm coming to believe they want the sincere personal opinions of individual men who shave in the morning and brush their teeth at night. I'm even coming to believe they want newspapers that would bleed if you stuck a pin in 'em.

I'd like to add that John Knight and his Detroit Free Press are an exception to what I've here said.

Knees and Shoestrings Inspire Writers On Greensboro News

In a convention talk, Virginius Dabney of the Richmond Times-Dispatch complimented the Greensboro News on its light editorials. They are no happenstance.

"Back during the war," says H. W. Kendall, editor, "we analyzed our editorial page, decided it was too heavy and that some light stuff was in order, especially since everybody was so serious and worried. There are only two of us in our editorial department but we simply made ourselves try to do a number of pieces in lighter vein. Once a week we take some commonplace word, which we know will touch the lives of practically all our readers, and play with it."

Among the words the Greensboro team have played with are "spoons," "shoestrings" and "knees." For example:

"Knees are your legs' elbows. If it weren't for knees you'd be solid instead of merely stiff in the joints, which would mean that you'd not only have great difficulty crossing the room but in all probability couldn't even cross your legs. And that being the case, just where would women defendants be when they tried to get justice from a jury composed predominantly of males?"

"Although knees are frequently uncovered, they never take their caps off. Despite the fact that many knees have water on 'em, they do not operate hydraulically. . . ." And so on to the extent of half a column.

"The stuff must have been all right," Mr. Kendall reports with an air of faint surprise, "as it got an excellent reception from our circulation field men and from our readers. We have had any number of requests to compile the series in a book, and we may eventually get around to that."

Providence Journal and Monitor Lauded For Human Editorials

Searching for off-the-beaten path editorials to use for reprint in the Louisville Courier-Journal, Barry Bingham found two in ASNE members' newspapers which he greatly admired.

"One of them was from the Christian Science Monitor, which is certainly a dignified editorial page if ever there was one," he told the Inland Press Association convention. "It was a delightful little editorial about baby sitting. It was very attractively written, and I believe a lot of young parents who might not ordinarily read the editorial page might have been attracted to that editorial."

"There was another in the Providence Journal which was a delightful example of making something out of what seemed a dead subject. They had taken some government statistics on the number of times American families had moved in the last ten years, and out of that rather dry material they had concocted a charming little piece about what it was like to leave a neighborhood you had been living in, saying goodbye to friends that you had made, moving into a new neighborhood, finding ways for little Johnnie to make friends with the boys on the block, things of that kind; very human, very warm, very personal."

"Those are the kinds of editorials I think make a page stronger and make the reader more willing to read the heavy, serious stuff."

How About 'Substi-tutors

"Interneships" is the term the American Council for Education in Journalism uses for a plan under which newspapers hire journalism teachers as summer substitutes.

"Dreadfully clinical," we objected to Dwight Marvin of the Troy Record, ACEJ president.

Mr. Marvin replied that he questioned whether the term "is good for a man who has served his time as a newspaper worker and has been graduated into teaching journalism. It sounds as if he were going back to first principles." Possibly "Sabbatical summer jobs" or "refurbishing employment" would do, he offered, and invited ASNE members to think up a better term.

Editor Tells How Harrisburg Paper Gets Out the Vote

"If I could leave one thought with the ASNE that is above partisanship, it is that the most constructive thing (along with roads, dams, hospitals, schools) any newspaper could undertake is to get every last American who has the right to vote to the polls next November."—Gael Sullivan at the 1948 convention.

• By V. HUMMEL BERGHAUS, JR.
Managing Editor
Harrisburg Evening News

Between Mr. Sullivan and the editors of The Patriot and The Evening News in Harrisburg there was no conspiracy or mental or other communication. In truth Mr. Sullivan's observation did not come to the editors' notice until recently, but what Mr. Sullivan advocated was precisely what these two newspapers did a year ago, and in the parties' primaries last April, and what is in their minds to do in the election next month.

When Edwin F. Russell became publisher of the newspapers in August, 1947, the electorate was slated for a new sort of "get-out-the-vote" stimulant. As the November polls approached, the papers ran a series of articles showing that "your vote does count." The articles were illuminated with graphs and tables. First page editorial appeals and cartoons were used to arouse the voting public.

The papers being traditionally Democratic and against political machine rule anywhere, Republican managers were stunned when informed that their candidates would be given without charge one-half of a "battle page" to present their claims. Democrats, of course, were given the same privilege.

As election day drew nearer, the editorial and other appeals to "get out the vote" were stepped up.

All this resulted in a vote exceeded only by that of the highest presidential years. The technique won such popular approval that in the primary elections of last April 27, a similar method was followed, except that more space was given to the protagonists in the Republican primary where the only contests occurred. For ten days both wings of the party battled it out.

This cross-fire aroused tremen-

A GREAT '48 PROGRAM IS ASSURED

At the 1947 convention, Virginius Dabney conducted an editorial page panel which rated tops with the membership. In 1948 he took part in a similar panel and next year, President Erwin Canham announces, the entire program will be in his hands.

The editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch is one of the younger members of the Society, in either sense. He is 47, and has been an ASNE member seven years.

Appropriate to his scholarly achievements, Mr. Dabney was born in University, Va. He was graduated from the University of Virginia, received an LL.D. at the University of Richmond in 1940 and has collected other degrees since. He lectured one semester at Princeton, on the New South.

Besides contributing to magazines, Mr. Dabney is the author of "Below the Potomac" and "Liberalism in the South."



VIRGINIUS DABNEY

dous popular interest, and the papers continued to emphasize the importance of voters going to the polls.

The results in votes cast were illuminating. Considerably more than half the registered voters went to the polls in a contest which gave the winner a less than 122 majority. The paper's decision to give both sides a forum for their issues proved so popular that primary contenders in an adjoining county asked and were given a "battle-page" of their own. In that county also the total vote was far above expectations.

The Harrisburg newspapers were cited by Oxie Reichler, editor of the Yonkers Herald Statesman, in an address at the University of Colorado School of Journalism last May:

"Consider the handsome job of the Harrisburg Patriot and Evening News that—by a fine campaign just before the last election—saw 80 per cent of the registered vote turn out, an all-time record for that city. The paper dropped politics, printed controversial issues side by side, reported political rallies carefully, exposed phantom voters on the rolls, and hammered home the point that the disinterested electors who normally don't vote have it in their power to swing the election. Page One editorials in the final week of the campaign gave the newspaper drive a high polish."

Ladies of the ASNE

A member asks whether the late Mrs. Eleanor Patterson was the first woman in ASNE.

For a time she was the only woman member, but preceding her was the late Mrs. Zell Hart Deming of the Warren (O.) Chronicle. Third to join was Mrs. Oveta Clup Hobby, Houston Post; then the late Miss Amy Comstock, Tulsa Tribune. Four women are on the rolls now: Mrs. Hobby, Mrs. Blanche Hixson Smith, Meriden Record, Mrs. Minnie R. Dwight, Holyoke Transcript Telegram; and Mrs. Dorothy Thackrey, New York Post and Home News.

Looking Backward

Ten years ago this month: The Bulletin became a monthly; had been two pages every two weeks.

Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade, was made a Kentucky colonel.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer broke woman's page tradition by daringly printing a layout of maternity dresses!

Major Frederick Sullens, Jackson Daily News, organized a Society for Telling Ladies Their Slips Are Showing; had his face slapped twice, his necktie torn off; called off his missionary work and disbanded the organization.

Harry S. Ashmore, editor of the Arkansas Gazette editorial page, has been made executive editor.

Petulant Peeves . . .

(Inspired by J. N. Heiskell
in the
September Bulletin)

Mr. Heiskell omits, in his learned essay, the tendency of some other copyreaders to abbreviate still further to "Dems" which might be mistaken for the plural of the second item in dese, dem and dose. Even the fully spelled-out Democrat is confusing since aristos, rather than demos might be claimed as a root word for some of them. There should be a law requiring all copyreaders to use the full term, Democratic Party. If the column rules get in the way, that's no worry of us grammar experts.—FRANK R. FORD, Evansville Press.

★ ★ ★

I'm hit right in the solar plexus every time I see a headline where the verb "hit" is used as a synonym for "criticize." — CHARLES R. CORBIN, Minneapolis Star and Tribune.

★ ★ ★

One of my pet peeves is the habit sports writers have of using "stanza," "chapter" etc. in place of quarters, innings, rounds, in describing sports contests. They seem to delight in avoiding use of the proper name whenever possible.—B. H. CARROLL, The Reporter Dispatch, White Plains, N. Y.

★ ★ ★

My pet "irk" is the person who calls up to complain about something in The Journal, who talks ten minutes without coming up for air, when the article didn't appear in The Journal at all—but the irate subscriber will not let you get a word in sideways until his chest or her bosom is relieved.—J. D. FERGUSON, Milwaukee Journal.

★ ★ ★

Pet Peeve Add—1: What Franklin P. Adams in the old N. Y. Daily Mail used to call, "Whom are you, said Cyril," e. g. "He called John whom he is convinced is a thief." —JAMES E. CHAPPELL, Birmingham News and Age-Herald.

★ ★ ★

Editorial headlines over news stories constitute my current irritation. — HAROLD A. FITZGERALD, Pontiac Press.

★ ★ ★

Other newspaper irks invited for next month.



JOHN A. PARK, with the
German girl who sparked his
Book Aid program.

John Park Gives Lesson On Getting Things Done

With the bulldog persistence that is typical of the editor of The Raleigh Times, John A. Park is providing books for German children, an idea that came to him on a trip to Europe more than a year ago. At his behest, North Carolina folk collected more than a million books. Not enough to suit Mr. Park, so he solicited other newspapers to join in the Book Aid program.

Last summer he returned to Germany on the first eastward trans-Atlantic flight of U. S. jets, took time out to resurvey the need for books in English, now being taught as a secondary language. More required, he found, so he sought the cooperation of International Rotary, whose Board of Directors recently endorsed the movement.

Mr. Park now plans to bring to this country two German girls, one of them Doris Hillebrand who furnished the original inspiration for his program.

Extra 'Proceedings'

Several members have asked whether they can buy extra copies of the 1948 Proceedings. Yes. Write Secretary Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal. Price, \$2.

BOARD MEETS IN NOVEMBER

President Canham will call the fall meeting of the Board for November, after directors get the election off their minds. The date is still to be set.

Matters which members would like the Board to consider at that time should be addressed to Secretary Wright Bryan, editor, Atlanta Journal.

Applications for membership, to be voted on at the meeting, should be sent without delay to the membership chairman, L. R. Blanchard, general executive editor, The Gannett Newspapers, Rochester, N. Y.

Wallace More Hopeful Of Latin-American Ties

Erwin D. Canham, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, says an international organization of editors would be one step toward a better understanding between nations.

The Interamerican Press Congress exists to promote understanding between nations of this hemisphere. The Interamerican Press Association of the United States was formed to promote interest of United States editors in efforts of the Interamerican Press Congress.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors might, constructively, take an interest in both organizations.

ASNE has not shown any interest in Latin America; has not invited one Latin American editor to participate in its program, although the suggestion that it do so has been made repeatedly. But it hasn't had Erwin Canham of the Christian Science Monitor as its president till now—TOM WALLACE in the Louisville Times.

Lippmann Handwriting

Ilka Chase in "Free Admission," commenting on the fine handwriting of an original Kipling manuscript: "I once received two or three handwritten lines from Mr. Walter Lippmann, to whom I had sent a fan letter, and he would be my entry against the Britisher for the Teeney Weeney sweepstakes. Those gentlemen are the ones to engage to engrave the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin."

Objectivity of Newspapers Improved, Editor Says, But Warns of A Relapse

In 1939 The Chicago Times ran a series of editorials "analyzing how well the American press is fulfilling its obligations as defined by the Canons of Journalism." Richard J. Finnegan revealed that two were contributed, by Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal, then ASNE President, and William Allen White; the others were written by Warren H. Pierce, chief editorial writer of The Times.

Now associate editor of the St. Petersburg Times, and an ASNE member since spring, Mr. Pierce re-surveys the subject.

By WARREN H. PIERCE
Associate Editor, St. Petersburg Times

It's my opinion that newspapers, on the whole, are better today, in the light of the Canons, than they were ten years ago.

At that time, a majority of newspapers were almost psychopathic on the subject of Roosevelt and the New Deal. In addition there was the great schism over international policy, at the time war was so obviously impending.

These two circumstances seemed to have some chemical reaction which caused many newspapers to lose all perspective, not only in their editorial columns, but in slanted news articles as well.

Today almost all editors seem to realize that Mr. Roosevelt really is dead, and the New Deal leader yet. With a few conspicuous exceptions, isolationism of the America First variety likewise has gone by the board. This has led to a more reasonable and less agitated editorial viewpoint on the part of most papers—with a consequent improvement in objectivity in both editorial and news columns.

Frankly I am dubious as to whether the cure is permanent. Here in the South at present the issues of "states' rights" as exemplified in the anti-civil rights Dixiecrat party is causing considerable frothing at the mouth by certain newspapers, some of them heretofore highly enlightened and objective in their views. It is quite disappointing.

I am still of the same mind as I was ten years ago, however, that no "committee" or "jury" of any kind—implicitly in the "Free and Responsible Press" report—is needed, since newspapers daily go before the widest of all possible



WARREN H. PIERCE

juries, namely, the public. Sooner or later a newspaper which abuses the ethics defined in the Canons of Journalism will find its sins catching up with it. Sometimes it seems unconscionably long before that happens, but it does come to pass after a while.

• About WARREN H. PIERCE

Thirty-two years ago, at the age of eight, Mr. Pierce was a carrier for his father's newspaper, The Daily Clintonian, Clinton, Ind. After training in that office, he worked on The St. Petersburg Times, then spent four years in network broadcasting in New York, two as educational director of CBS.

His next stop was in Columbus, chief editorial writer of The Citizen, when Nelson P. Poynter was editor of the Scripps-Howard newspaper. The two were associated again in the 1940 Roosevelt campaign and later in OWI. But meanwhile Mr. Pierce left Columbus for The Chicago Times, returning to The Sun-Times after war service (on Adm. Halsey's staff as press officer for the Third Fleet) until he again joined the Poynter forces last February.

Much of 1946-47 Mr. Pierce was on lend-lease to the State Department, drafting a "Treaty for World Freedom of Information." During

THE Plainfield (N. J.) Courier-News is planning to give an annual award to the police officer in its area who does the most outstanding or heroic work during the year.

"I am wondering," writes Paul Smith, managing editor, "whether any other ASNE newspaper does such a promotion stunt. If so I would like to hear about the plan, how it is set up and how the award is made."

Will any member with advice to offer, please write Mr. Smith at The Courier-News.

that time he also taught Law of the Press and Editorial Interpretation of Contemporary Affairs (known to the students as "Contemptible Affairs") at the Medill School of Journalism.

Resurrecting a boyhood hobby, Mr. Pierce now has a dock and a boat in his own back yard. "My wife, poor deluded soul," he confesses, "keeps feebly protesting that we should make a payment on our mortgage instead of buying more fishing equipment. Isn't that just like a woman?"

Who They Are

(Answers to questions in the last Bulletin.)

J. N. Heiskell, Arkansas Gazette, was a U. S. Senator by appointment; John Day Jackson, New Haven Register, once served as police commissioner; W. R. Mathews, Arizona Daily Star, USMC captain in the first war, won the Croix de Guerre for capturing 75 Germans.—Who's Who in America.

Tom Wallace, according to SNPA Bulletin, managed an ice company and a toothpaste factory before going into newspaper work.

When the Printers' Circular, in 1872, claimed the title of "champion baby compositor" for a Texas youngster of ten, the Lebanon (Mo.) Leader countered:

"We have a 'little pet' who throws the Texas baby in the shade. Master Casper S. Yost is but seven years old. He only commenced setting type two weeks ago, and on Monday last set up 4000 ems of leading bourgeois, one column of this paper, making a very clean proof sheet."

The story about the St. Louis Globe-Democrat editor and ASNE founder was rediscovered by Prof. Frank Luther Mott.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 303

November 1, 1948

What Editors Read

What have you read recently that you'd recommend to other editors, and why?

HARRY S. ASHMORE, Arkansas Gazette: "A Union Officer in Reconstruction" by John William DeForrest (Yale University Press). This account of Reconstruction in my old home town in South Carolina, written by the Union major in charge, is the first objective report on that troubled period I have ever found. You would be surprised how useful this is to a Southern newspaper editor in this peculiar time.

JULIO GARZON, La Prensa, New York City: Ray Joseph's "Latin America—A Continent in Crisis." After reading several chapters I find it highly recommendable as a source of true and ample information of political and economic affairs in those countries.

M. M. HARRIS, San Antonio Express: "The United States and China" by John King Fairbank (Harvard University Press), and "The Press and the Constitution" by J. Edward Gerald (University of Minnesota Press). Timely, sound and thoroughly readable.

HODDING CARTER, Delta Democrat-Times, Greenville, Miss.: "Washington Witch Hunt," by Bert Andrews, helps preserve one's balance (and maybe sanity) in respect to the Washington scene. "The Naked and the Dead" by Norman Mailer, for my money, is the first powerful and honest novel to come out of World War II. "Malabar Farm," by Louis Bromfield, points the way toward solving the wastage of our land.

MICHAEL BRADSHAW, Toledo Times, "The Naked and the Dead" by Norman Mailer, recommended to all those editors, who, like myself, wrote a great deal about the war in the Pacific and knew precious little about it... with uncommon insight and a style reminiscent of Thomas Wolfe. Mr. Mailer has stripped the uniforms off a division and shown what makes men tick when the heat is on.

CARROLL BINDER, Minneapolis Tribune: "Ides of March" by Thornton Wilder, affords an imaginative insight into the times and moods of an extraordinary leader in extraordinary times. "Cry the Beloved Country" by Allen Patton acquaints one with South American life, customs and problems. "Ordeal of the Union" by Allan Nevins, a well documented study

of a fateful period in American history. "The Making of the Modern Mind" by John H. Randall (1940) and Toynbee's "Study of History" to get a better grasp of the present by a better knowledge of the past.

LOUIS LaCOSS, St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "Public Opinion and Propaganda," by Leonard H. Doob (Yale University Press). "Heirs Apparent" by Young and Middleton for some timely information about our vice presidents. Not too well written but interesting. "Tom's Town" by William M. Reddig* and "Missouri Waltz" by Maurice Milligan have nothing particularly new about Pendergastism, but good. "The American Democracy" by Harold J. Laski, pretty dull and opinionated.

(*ASNE member)

... And Write

'And what about your book that Macmillan will publish this fall, Mr. Brucker?'

HERBERT BRUCKER, Hartford Courant: I have been working on "Freedom of Information" off and on, thanks to innumerable interruptions, for more than eight years. It was begun when I was at Columbia, and finished when I was back in the newspaper business here.

It is an attempt to evaluate the position of the newspaper in contemporary society. As far as I can tell in advance, nobody is going to like it. The critics of the press, the ones who eat up the books by

Postscript to Last Month's Discussion

• By THOMAS J. BERRIGAN
Managing Editor, Niagara Falls Gazette

We have had no trouble, at least in recent years, in gaining access to public records of our city or county, and I do not recall complaints by wire services or special writers about being shut off from these news sources at higher levels of government.

I can appreciate the fear of officials of welfare boards, juvenile courts, and some other bureaus, that specific publicity on certain phases of their work might be harmful. And I think that, generally, the fear is well founded, because some problems of human behavior become more difficult of solution if they are known to the public. Occasionally, of course, the official is over-fearful, but I have always found him ready to talk the

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 98, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 302 October 1, 1948

George Seldes, Harold Ickes, Morris Ernst, et al, are going to say it is a defense of the status quo by an old stuffed shirt. But people in the business may feel it is not enough of a defense of the press. What I have tried to do is to go honestly down the middle as I see it, neither attacking nor defending the press. I have merely tried to evaluate the situation of newspapers, under the eighteenth-century doctrine of the free press, in our vastly changed mid-twentieth century.

matter over, with a satisfactory result.

★ ★ ★

We have had no experience of public officials hiding records and the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law last year making the acts of public bodies illegal unless the sessions are open to the public.—WALTER W. KREBS, Editor, The Johnstown Tribune.

★ ★ ★

We have experienced a good deal of hesitancy but have always been able to talk the individuals concerned out of their qualms. It seems to me that constant vigilance is the best way to assure full access to records. Once you slip up, officials are inclined to begrudge attempts to exercise this right.—HENRY J. SCHMITT, Editor Aberdeen American-News.

NEW CRITICS OF PRESS WOULD AMEND ITS FREEDOM, PAST PRESIDENT WARNS

• By A. H. KIRCHHOFFER,
Managing Editor, Buffalo Evening News

The Editor of the ASNE Bulletin asks me if I still believe, as I told the Society in 1938, that newspapers have not been sufficiently aggressive in answering attacks upon the press. "Positively," is the answer.

Critics of newspapers, if anything, have increased in numbers and furor since 1938. In addition to the political scolds of those years, we now have ideologists who not only criticize newspaper operations but would alter, amend, or revise freedom of the press, because the press remains a bulwark against counter-revolution and disintegration of our country and the American way of life.

Others, claiming a social obligation, and apparently disregarding the concept of the founding fathers, would regiment the principle of freedom so that publications would become common carriers. Thus an editor would be under legal or political compulsion to publish what some bureaucrat thought should be published, instead of allowing the reader to be the final judge of the worth of the product he buys.

But freedom of expression is not an end in itself. It is, among other things, the freedom to criticize our government to save it from follies that might threaten its life. This imposes a conscious obligation to teach the lesson of American history, a strangely neglected subject in many of our schools; and to inculcate in peacetime as well as



A. H. KIRCHHOFFER

"WE have allowed critics of the press, who want to control our opinions and failing in that to lessen the force of our influence, to go unanswered... We have treated them like irresponsible theorists and, therefore, largely have ignored them. It's time to face facts and batter down such superstition. The way to bring forth truth is to challenge and dispute all fallacious doctrine with reason."—A. H. KIRCHHOFFER, presidential address at 1938 convention.

wartime a burning patriotic zeal based upon knowledge and understanding of the revolutionary concept which even today makes citizens of this republic the freest men in the world with the highest standards of living in history. Are not too many papers more concerned with developments of the moment than the effort to seek consistent appropriate occasion to repeat and restate these principles?

Every minority that can't have its way in a newspaper aims to criticize, belittle or destroy a publication, little realizing that if legal compulsion is to be applied to the daily press it soon will be applied to any other section of the press, no matter under what guise it may operate. It's a kind of warfare in which some seem willing to destroy everything about us in order to gain their ends.

Directors Meet in Washington

President Canham has called the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors for Sunday, Nov. 21, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. This will be a strictly business, one-day session. Matters for consideration of the Board should be addressed to the Secretary, Wright Bryan, editor of the Atlanta Journal.

Teeters Wonders Why Press Is Slow To Defend Itself

Setting readers of the Springfield (O.) Sun straight on some common misunderstandings about newspapers, Bert A. Teeters said in a Newspaper Week editorial:

"Nothing is unusual in the fact that at periodical intervals, someone gets to his feet to denounce the American press... What is a bit remarkable is that the press has not been more aggressive in defending itself, particularly as in a great many cases, the criticism is unwarranted, unfounded in fact and considerably biased."

The editorial pointed out that, as our newspapers are managed by men and women of every religious faith and political belief, and having the widest variety of social and economic philosophies, none of the criticisms of the press can apply to every newspaper.

For every rogue in the business, it continued, there are many hundreds of honest men and women, working untiringly to provide the facts and all the facts to the public, and while they sincerely welcome constructive criticism, they will not permit malicious criticism to deter them from what they believe to be their duty.

The editorial concluded: "This is one nation where, if you don't like what you read, you can start your own publication and print what you wish even though, as is the case with some publications, your beliefs are opposed to the freedom and privileges which the American Constitution grants all those who live under its protection."

Editorial Emphasizes It's the Public's Press

Because of widespread misunderstanding of the phrase "Freedom of the Press," the Plainfield Courier-News suggests that the

wording be changed to "The Freedom of the Public's Press."

In an editorial the newspaper pointed up several facts of which all editors, but too few readers, are aware: that newspapers recognize their duty to print the news impartially and to interpret it fairly; and that as long as the American people preserve — and demand — their free press, they too will remain free.

Paul Smith, managing editor, is the ASNE member on The Courier-News but his city editor, Harold E. Keenan, is behind the campaign to popularize the suggested amendment. Many newspapers have reprinted the original editorial with approving comment. Other editors wishing to do so may obtain a copy by writing Mr. Keenan.

Three Joneses Named To Nominations Group Headed By Herbert

Nominations chairman for 1949 is John R. Herbert of Quincy, Mass.

Now only 40, Mr. Herbert has been managing editor of The Patriot Ledger for 15 years, and has built up an outstanding reputation for community service. Long before the official liaison between newspapers and journalism schools, he co-operated with Boston University School of Journalism, of which he is a graduate, once a year inviting students there to get out the paper. In 1945 he was cited by The Jewish Advocate for his constant efforts to develop better understanding among all groups in the community.

Boston-born, Mr. Herbert's hobby is collecting ship pictures; his specialty, the dwindling fleet of New England lumber schooners. At ASNE meetings he is given to rising early and taking a brisk walk, hatless, his red hair exposed to winds which seem raw to Washingtonians but pleasantly homelike to him.

A member of the Society for



THOMAS G. LANPHIER Jr.
Editor, Idaho Daily Statesman, Boise.

nine years, Mr. Herbert has served on various committees, this year heads one for the first time.

Other members of the committee, announced by President Canham, are:

VINCENT JONES, Utica Observer-Dispatch

FRED W. BRINKERHOFF, Pittsburg (Ks.) Sun

JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Tulsa Tribune

WALTER P. JONES, McClatchy Newspapers, Sacramento.

Membership Committee

L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, who has been operating alone as membership chairman, now has a committee to assist him. President Canham has announced these appointments:

CARL E. LINDSTROM, Hartford Times

A. Y. ARONSON, Louisville Times

NORMAN E. ISAACS, St. Louis Star-Times

FRANK C. CLOUGH, Speidel Newspapers, Palo Alto, Calif.

Members wishing to propose applicants should write Mr. Blanchard for blanks without delay so that they may be voted on by the Board of Directors at the meeting on November 21. After that, there will be no election of new members until a mail ballot just before the April convention.

Ex-Fighter Pilot Is ASNE'S Only Member in Idaho

Last spring an editor named Lanphier from Boise, Idaho, joined the Society. (He's the one who rose at the convention to ask Glen Taylor to name the Idaho newspaper the Senator charged was bought off from its editorial stand by an advertiser.)

Last summer, when the Air Force Association convention in New York made headlines, a former fighter pilot named Lanphier figured largely in the news as its president.

Tom Lanphier, of ASNE and AFA, is also the man who, on April 18, 1943, brought down a Jap bomber and with it Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy who was reputed to have boasted that the Japs would dictate peace terms in the White House.

Credit for that mission was withheld as the War Department feared that if the pilot's identity were known, the Japs would take the life of his brother, Charles, a Marine flier they held captive. After the surrender it was learned that Charles had died of starvation at Rabaul in 1944.

Now 34, the editor-flier soloed when he was 14, after learning to fly in Army trainers at Selfridge Field, Detroit. Sounds quite illegal, but his father, Thomas G. Lanphier, a West Pointer, commanded the First Pursuit Group there. Tom, Jr., got into the war early, joined the Air Force in 1941, received his wings a month before Pearl Harbor, and a month afterwards was in the South Pacific. Before the Pacific war was over, he had racked up more than 100 combat missions in fighters, shot down seven Jap planes, and destroyed many more on the ground.

Captain Lanphier was one of the earliest boosters of the P-38, whose superiority had been proved to the Japs — but not to new pilots and instructors back home. On the captain's return to the U. S., General Arnold sent him on a tour of the country "to show the boys what the P-38 can do." Speaking and demonstrating at more than 50 flying schools, he sold the new plane wherever he went.

DANGEROUS SET-BACK ABROAD

President Cites Damaging Changes Made in U.S. Convention On the Gathering and International Transmission of News

• By ERWIN D. CANHAM, Editor, Christian Science Monitor

The Soviet government has won the second round in the battle for world freedom of information which began at Geneva last March-April. They won it because middle ground nations, which should know better, fell away from our cause. That indicates that if we are to make any progress in international negotiation, a great deal of spade work has to be done with supposedly free nations. That the United States convention on the gathering and international transmission of news, which was adopted at the Geneva conference in April might have been of some value in aiding the press in its world-wide task was strongly attested by the vigorous attack on the convention launched by the Soviet government at the mid-summer meetings of the Economic and Social Council.

The U. S. convention, as originally adopted at Geneva, was a very satisfactory treaty from the American point of view. But when it later came before the Economic and Social Council it was so badly amended that it might now do more harm than good. The amendments may be overthrown and the convention restored to the original form at the current sessions of the U. N. General Assembly in Paris. But that remains to be seen. I am not sure the chances of restoration are very good.

The damaging changes were these:

First, the original convention stipulated that censorship might be applied only "relatively directly to the maintenance of military security." This was amended by taking out the word "military" — thus leaving the possibility of censorship open to the widest interpretation by any national government. The proviso could be used to impose an endless variety of peacetime censorships.

Second, the original convention provided that

"The Contracting States shall permit and encourage the widest possible access to news, official and non-official, for all foreign correspondents on the same basis as for national correspondents and

shall not discriminate among foreign correspondents as regards such access."

This was amended to read:

"Each Contracting State shall, within the limits compatible with national security, permit and encourage access to news, official and non-official, for all correspondents of other Contracting States so far as possible, on the same basis as for its own correspondents and shall not discriminate among correspondents of other Contracting States as regards such access."

It will be seen that the text has been watered down to the point of being meaningless. The amended text not only widens the breach for discrimination between national correspondents and foreign correspondents, but again rivets into the convention the phrase "national security" discussed above.

The American delegation at Paris, which unfortunately has no newspaperman on it — although in fairness it must be stated that the State Department attempted to get newspaper representation — is expected to make a vigorous effort to remove these dangerous changes. But we must keep a close watch on the situation, otherwise our own handiwork is being turned against us.

McGovern Welcomes Patterson to Bridgeport

With James L. McGovern, associate editor of the Bridgeport Post-Telegram, as master of ceremonies, the Bridgeport Kiwanis Club and the Newtown, Conn., Rotary Club observed National Newspaper Week with meetings at which newspapermen were speakers and guests.

The Rotary affair drew an attendance of 600 to hear Grove Patterson, editor of the Toledo Blade, who spoke on the necessity for some form of world government if another war is to be avoided.

Nearly Everything Nowadays Marked 'Hold For Release'

Inter-office memo, from Baker Marsh, telegraph editor of the Chicago Daily News, to Everett Norlander, managing editor.

It seems to me that more and more wire service and other telegraph desk stories are being handled on a hold for release basis. In some instances this aids us as an afternoon paper, in others it militates against us.

In practice it might be argued that the results are about 50-50. However, there are off-shoots to this HFR system which are objectionable. The first is that it is spreading. More and more committees, clubs, government departments and individuals are imposing time restrictions on the publishing of news. Agreed that many of these are reasonable or based on necessity (such as a speech), there still arise a fairly large number that seem to be purely arbitrary.

The second objectionable offshoot is that many of these hold for release stories leak out before the release date. Newspaper writers and wire services begin to pour out stories from "responsible sources," from the well-known "it was learned here" and all the other dodges. Later events prove these stories to be 100 per cent accurate. They should be — they were taken from the release.

These speculation stories are dishonest in that while they exhibit journalistic enterprise they do it in the wrong way. If a man has something he thinks is news but cannot print it as an outright fact he should break the release, not pussy-foot about it.

The result of the present system is that the story when it actually is released is "old." It lacks punch. It isn't really news. And the result of the speculation story is that by circumventing the hold for release system we allow it to continue instead of trying to curb it.

What is behind so many of these release dates? I think it's time somebody raised a beef before more news comes in handout form.

Members' comments are invited on the situation Mr. Marsh cites.

PET PEEVES (Final Installment)

The opinionated jackass who assumes that only lack of guts keeps me from saying in print what HE happens to believe.

"Of course, I can see why you can't print that," says he in that confidential tone of sympathetic understanding — the implication being that both he and I know it really ought to be printed. He has an amazing capacity for seeing things that ain't there.

I don't recall ever writing anything I didn't believe, but I recall NOT writing plenty of things I didn't believe, although they would have been extremely popular at the time. The most exacting test of journalistic courage is to remain temperate when the galleries are howling for blood and thunder. It burns me to have that interpreted as abject fear of losing my job, being mangled by some advertiser, or stifling the flow of hush money on which, if there were any such thing, I long since could have retired. — HARRY BOYD, Cedar Rapids Gazette.

★ ★ ★

News writers using slang in their stories, except in sports, apparently forgetting that children and adults learn much of their English from newspapers.

News writers, radio announcers and public speakers saying candidate when they mean nominee.

Radio announcers, news writers and speakers using a.m., with morning and forenoon, and p.m. with afternoon, evening and night. I believe it is called redundancy. — F. A. MILLER, South Bend Tribune.

★ ★ ★

Mine is seeing in the paper so much the "powerful" Senate appropriations committee or the "all-powerful" House ways and means committee. I am willing to admit they are powerful but for pete's sake please ask the Washington boys to quit reminding us of it all the time. — ARTHUR V. BURROWES, St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette.

★ ★ ★

When press agents offer free the scribbles of a personality in the amusement world, editors become as indignant as a virtuous woman who has been ap-

proached by a blunt and determined wolf. So — press agents now put a price tag on this inane drivel and these same editors break their necks to buy it. When such an editor is my competitor and, by sly promotion, seeks to woo my readers away, flaunting a popular name in their faces, I'm peeved; not that I lose many readers that way, but it pains me to see even a competitor be so gullible. — KENNETH D. TOOILL, Toledo Times.

★ ★ ★

My chief complaint concerns the many alphabetical agencies with impossible names which have made it necessary to adopt the use of capitalized abbreviations in many headlines. I also think that our newspapers, due in some part to wire reports, give too much space to foreign news and too little to domestic news. — W. T. CHRISTIAN, Richmond News Leader.

★ ★ ★

Ralph Coghlan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, wasn't feeling peeved at the moment the inquiry reached him, turned the question over to an editorial writer, Rufus Terral, for answer. He writes:

How about the pretentious "associated with" that so many Society departments use? When I was in Chattanooga several weeks ago, Martin Ochs, grand-nephew of the late great Adolph, was King of the Cotton Ball, a blow-out of some standing. He is also Court House reporter on the Chattanooga Times. The Society department evidently felt that this position in life was not big enough for a King of the Cotton Ball, so it described him as "associated with the editorial department of the Chattanooga Times."

The head of the copy desk informed me wryly that the low-water mark in this sort of business was reached when a young man who ran a filling station was getting married. The Society page described him as "associated with the Standard Oil Company."

★ ★ ★

End peeves, unless some member has one he specially wants to get off his chest next month.

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.
No. 303 November 1, 1948

Pennsylvania Law On Public Meetings

Several members have requested the text of a law which Walter W. Krebs, editor of The Johnstown Tribune, referred to in the October Bulletin.

Pennsylvania Legislature
Act of May 31, 1947, P.L. 334
Act #149, Section 1

All meetings, regular and special, of the county commissioners of any county, the council of any city, borough or incorporated town, the commissioners of any township of the first class, the supervisors of any town of the second class, the school directors of any school district, and of all boards, commissions and authorities created by or operating as agencies of any political subdivisions, are hereby declared to be open to the public at all times: Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any such body, board, commission or authority from holding executive sessions from which the public is excluded; but no ordinance, rule or regulation shall be finally adopted at such an executive session.

Hugh W. Robertson, vice president of Westchester County Newspapers, has been elected a director of the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 304

December 1, 1948

BOARD VOTES YEAR'S AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

With only a dozen items on the agenda, President Erwin D. Canham conducted a brisk meeting of the ASNE Board of Directors in Hotel Statler, Washington, on Nov. 21, which set a new record for promptness (called for 10 a.m. and convened at 10:02) and finished its business by 5:30, same day. Every member was present.

Most important decision before the directors was whether the Society should join the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers, organized in Paris last June. Affiliation was approved after lengthy discussion hinging on two points: the wisdom of joining, and whether the Society at large, rather than the directors, should make the decision.

Mr. Canham earnestly recommended immediate affiliation. To do so without delay, he said, would offer needed moral support to editors who are fighting the last stand for a free press in western Europe and who look to the United States for inspiration. The purpose of the organization, "to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security by facilitating the free circulation of ideas by word and image," is in accord with our own. What the Federation possibly may achieve will be clearer after its next meeting, in Amsterdam in May.

Directors questioned Mr. Canham closely on possible pitfalls in affiliation. He saw none. Under the by-laws of the Federation, any resolution must be unanimously adopted; otherwise it can be issued only as a recommendation, accompanied by the minority report. Resignation from the organization is possible at any time on six months' notice. As for the financial consideration, Mr. Canham said that the dues have not been decided but either they will be equal for all member organizations or there will be no more than two rates, for larger and smaller groups. His guess was around

\$200, a year. Cost of sending a delegate, he added, would be between \$1000. and \$1500. but the Board foresaw the possibility of eliminating that by appointing as ASNE representative some member who may be in Europe at the time of the Amsterdam meeting.

The question of whether the membership should be polled on the proposition was resolved by the Board's decision to affiliate for one year only, with a consensus on further participation to be obtained at the convention in April.

Charter members of the Federation are: Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Mr. Canham was elected a vice-president at the organizational meeting in Paris contingent upon ASNE's affiliation.

The text of the resolution: RESOLVED, that the Society join the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers for one year, and pay such dues as are set under the present by-laws of the International Federation;

RESOLVED, that the Board submit to the April meeting of the membership a statement as to the purposes of this connection, and obtain from the membership a consensus as to further participation in the International Federation, making clear to the members of the Society that this is the attempt of relatively independent newspapers of Europe and elsewhere to seek a unity of newspapers to combat the statism controls of newspapers which have been exerted in too many parts of the world;

RESOLVED, that the Society be advised at the April meeting that this is the first natural response by the press of post-war Europe to the findings of the ASNE 1945 commission, attempting to evaluate free press and free information around the world.

THE Board of Directors has set the 1949 convention of the Society for April 21, 22 and 23 in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

The sessions will follow the usual pattern, all day including luncheon, with probably one and possibly two evening meetings, and the banquet Saturday evening, April 23.

Russell Wiggins Heads Committee on World Dissemination of News

J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor of The Washington Post, has been named chairman of the Committee on World Dissemination of News.



J. R. WIGGINS

Function of the group is to review the character of the news disseminated abroad by the State Department, and its continuance was authorized by the Society at the April convention. Last year's chairman was Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sunpapers, who found it impossible to serve again.

Other members of the committee have been reappointed by President Canham. They are: Paul Block, Jr., Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Toledo Blade-Times; Harold Wheeler, Boston Traveler; Lloyd M. Felmy, Newark Evening News.

Although he was among the members of the Society elected last year, Mr. Wiggins is not a newcomer to ASNE. He belonged for several years as executive editor of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press, became ineligible when he was assistant to the publisher of the New York Times, rejoined when he was appointed managing editor of The Post.

25 New Members From 17 States Elected by Board

Twenty-five members were elected, five from cities under 50,000 population. In the larger group were:

ROBERT J. BLAKELY, chief editorial writer, St. Louis Star-Times.

HERMAN B. DEUTSCH, associate editor, New Orleans Item.

B. S. GRIFFITH, executive editor, Charlotte News.

DAN HARPER, managing editor, Staten Island Advance.

COLEMAN HARWELL, editor, Nashville Tennessean.

T. M. HEDERMAN, editor-in-chief, Daily Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss.

FRANK S. HOAG, JR., publisher, The Chieftain and Star-Journal, Pueblo, Colo.

ROBERT W. JOHNSON, editor, Wilkes-Barre Record.

JOHN M. McCLELLAN, editor, The Trentonian, Trenton, N. J.

ROBERT E. McCURE, editor, The Outlook, Santa Monica.

J. A. MECKSTROTH, editor, Ohio State Journal, Columbus.

CLIFFORD J. NUHN, editorial director, Poughkeepsie New Yorker.

EUGENE PULLIAM, editor and publisher, Indianapolis Star and News.

ALLEN W. SMITH, managing editor, Passaic Herald-News.

GEORGE M. SHOOK, editor-in-chief, Jersey Observer, Hoboken.

HENRY P. SLANE, editor, The Peoria Journal.

HARRISON H. SMITH, executive editor, Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader, Evening News.

BERT STRUBY, executive editor, Macon Telegraph and News.

CARL F. WHITE, managing editor, The Evening Outlook, Santa Monica.

JOHN F. WURZ, editor, Grand Rapids Herald.

As there were 13 candidates from newspapers in smaller cities, and the by-laws permit the election of only five annually, the list was studied carefully by the Board from every angle, including how long applicants had been waiting and geographical location. Those not elected will be notified to apply again if they wish to be considered a year hence when five memberships in this

classification again will be open. Those elected were:

PHILIP D. ADLER, editor and publisher, Star-Courier, Kewanee, Illinois.

WALLACE A. BRENNAN, editor, Evening Observer, Dunkirk, New York.

ROBERT W. LUCAS, editor, Yakima Republic, Yakima, Wash.

WARREN MORRELL, executive editor, Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, S. Dak.

CHARLES A. STORKE, assistant editor and publisher, The News-Press, Santa Barbara, Calif.

This completed the first phase of the work of the membership chairman, L. R. Blanchard of Gannett Newspapers. Applications from cities over 50,000 submitted in the next few months will be voted on by mail ballot of the directors just before the April convention. Anyone wishing to propose a new member should write Mr. Blanchard or any member of his committee: Carl E. Lindstrom, Hartford Times; A. Y. Aronson, Louisville Times; Norman E. Isaacs, St. Louis Star-Times; Frank C. Clough, Speidel Newspapers, Palo Alto, Calif.

Changes Are Proposed In Society's By-Laws

A routine change in the by-laws proposed by David Lawrence was approved by the Board and will be voted on by the Society in April. This would clear up a discrepancy in Article III, "Board of Directors." Par. 2 sets the number of directors at 12 but Par. 8, an amendment providing that each retiring president shall become ex-officio for three years, brings the total to 15. Under the amendment now proposed, Par. II would specify "not over 15 members" to include the three ex-officios.

The Board also was reminded that two other amendments which it approved at its meeting last April must be voted on at the 1949 convention. One rescinds in entirety the present "non-attendance at conventions" amendment; the other is the proposed "sparse states amendment" (cf. pp. 30, 31, 1948 Proceedings).

All three, in the form on which they are to be acted upon, will be submitted to the membership just prior to the convention.

News Notes From the Directors' Meeting

Virginius Dabney, 1949 program chairman, reported to the Board that plans, naturally, are still fluid at this time. In general the program will follow the pattern of other years with the perennial hope that there will be more time for shop talks. Mr. Dabney promises a tentative outline soon after the first of the year.

★ ★ ★

While members lost through death are memorialized at the annual meeting, the Board agreed that a direct and more timely message to the bereaved is in order. Wright Bryan suggested a letter of condolence in the name of the Society and promised to add this to his secretarial duties.

★ ★ ★

The Board discussed at some length the situation in Baltimore where two radio stations are in contempt of court for publishing a rape confession, violating a local law which proscribes, among other things, publication of statements made by the accused between arraignment and trial. On

motion of N. R. Howard, Mr. Canham was requested to watch the case and empowered to decide whether ASNE should be represented in any way at the trial proceedings.

★ ★ ★

Dwight Young saved at least half an hour of precious time by moving that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. Said he, "All the years I was secretary I wished someone would save me that unnecessary chore, since copies of the minutes already had been mailed to directors for okay or correction, and I vowed then that I'd do it for the next secretary."

★ ★ ★

In reporting on committee activities since April Mr. Canham paid tribute to the work Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, and his committee on World Freedom of Information are doing, particularly in calling to the attention of authorities any actions or conditions militating against freedom of information on the domestic front.

SEMINARS ON ATOMIC INFORMATION

Gideon Seymour Reports on Instruction Courses Being Arranged for Newsmen at University of Minnesota, Columbia and Oak Ridge

Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star-Journal, chairman of the Atomic Information committee, reported by wire to the Board that three seminars on atomic information are in process of organization. This is in accordance with a resolution adopted at the April convention which recognized the need for better reporting and interpretation of atomic information and urged the establishment of training courses.

The first will be held January 20 to 22 at the University of Minnesota, sponsored jointly by the University and the committee acting for ASNE, to which 25 or 30 midwest managing editors and news editors will be invited. At that meeting scientists will tell working newspapermen what they ought to know about handling of atomic energy news. If it is successful, the committee hopes the program can be duplicated in other parts of the country.

The second plan is for a fairly advanced course for science reporters at the American Press Institute at Columbia next spring. The Institute stands ready to arrange the seminar but so far has found interest relatively slight. Whether that plan goes through depends largely on how many ASNE members write Mr. Seymour indicating interest.

The third prospect is for a one-week seminar at Oak Ridge, principally for managing editors and editorial page editors in that general section of the country. This would be conducted in cooperation with the Atomic Energy Commission. Again, if it is successful, similar seminars could be held at Brookhaven and Argonne Laboratories and perhaps Los Alamos.

Where De We Stop?

Total membership of the Society now is 498, raising the question of whether a limit should be imposed. Some directors believe the organization should continue wide open to every eligible editor; others argue that conventions already are overcrowded, and that the larger the group the less homogeneous it becomes. The problem was aired by individual directors but did not come before the Board. Members are invited to submit their opinions on whether limitation should be considered.

All three seminars would be held before the next convention so that, on the basis of practical experience, the committee can recommend to the Society whether continued and widened effort in this sphere seems advisable.

Other members of Mr. Seymour's committee are: W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News; Laurence L. Winship, Boston Globe; B. M. McKelway, Washington Star; C. G. Wellington, Kansas City Star; and Paul C. Smith, San Francisco Chronicle.

In Re Directors

Only break in the day's business was luncheon, preceded by cocktails courtesy of B. M. McKelway (thereby sparing the ASNE treasury). John S. Knight proposed the only toast—to the new president of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, Oveta Culp Hobby.

Undaunted by the Board's decision to hold the 1949 convention in Washington as usual, Hamilton Owens and Virginius Dabney have changed their battle cry to "San Francisco in 1950."

In Chicago for the AP managing editors' meeting Dwight Perrin decided to make a side-trip to California to see his father, Frank L. Perrin. The senior Perrin was an ASNE member for many years when he was editor of the Christian Science Monitor; now retired, he still writes an occasional piece for the paper.

Ralph Coghlan arrived at the ASNE Board meeting fresh from the National Conference of Editorial Writers in Louisville of which he is founder.

With editors flying into Washington from all directions, World Traveler Wilbur Forrest took a more leisurely pace, motoring from New York with Mrs. Forrest. They made a three-day round trip of the 400 miles and stopped at motor courts because they prefer them.

T. M. Hederman, editor-in-chief of the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger, who has been elected to the Society, is the son of the late T. M. Hederman, an ASNE member until his death last February.

Banquet Tickets Four to A Member Again This Year

Four tickets to a member again will be the banquet rule, i.e., each member may have no more than three guests.

This means that the affair will be bigger than the Presidential Room can accommodate and that some 300 members will be relegated to the Congressional (or back) room. Only other alternative would be to limit to two tickets, putting many a member in the embarrassing position of having to choose among his wife, Senator and publisher. This, the majority of the Board felt, would be even more regrettable than overcrowding.

The Board also considered changes in seating arrangement, among them the possibility of favoring, with preferred positions, members who take only one guest or giving better tables to ones who suffered in suburban locations last year. Decision on this annual headache was delegated to the treasurer who, in collaboration with the assistant secretary, will work out some feasible plan to be announced later. (And please don't try to order tickets yet!)

Tom Wallace Honored In Board Resolution

Tom Wallace, editor emeritus of The Louisville Times, was made a distinguished service member of ASNE under Art. II, Par. 3, of the by-laws, in the following resolution prepared by N. R. Howard, Cleveland News, and unanimously adopted by the Board:

RESOLVED, that the Society recognize Tom Wallace's years of distinction as a great American editor, a past president of this Society; that we are grateful for his stimulating the Society's interest in Latin-America; that we salute his lifelong fight for conservation of natural resources, for which he has been widely recognized; that, in addition to Mr. Wallace's membership in the ASNE we designate him also as a distinguished service member for the honor he has brought on himself and this Society.

Over-Indulgence Of Radio Demands Costly to Papers

• By PAUL S. WALCOTT, Editor
Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder-Gazette

The dangerous, dishonest and delusive practice which Baker Marsh, telegraph editor of the Chicago Daily News, so trenchantly exposes in the November Bulletin is another result of perversion to radio of news gathering machinery created, and still largely supported, by newspapers.



PAUL WALCOTT

There was a day, I recall, when release times meant something. There were "morning" and "evening" newspapers, and everyone understood what publication release involved, even with the elements of pre-dates, bulldogs and continental time zones.

Now there are two factors for confusion. One is radio predilection for ejaculation of red-hot but fragmentary information. I cannot blame radio for this, but I sure hate to see news services fouled up and both sources and receptionists ill served by over-indulgence of radio demands at sacrifice of newspaper cooperation. The other is the amorphous radio range as contrasted with the established and audited newspaper field. A person may, and often does, think his fixed release will be heard only on a nearby station or stations, only to discover ultimately that while the neighbors were doing everything but lending an ear the truncated story was being bounced out of receivers hundreds of miles away.

In my view, a majority of Associated Press members have given away much of what they created by over-anxiety to indulge their own or others' radio stations. Newspapers and news agencies have brought the present plague of hold for releases upon themselves by failure to impress on government and private agencies what a batting their precious story is going to get from the ra-

dio before the newspaper publication which they sought.

For my part, when we have or can get direct contact with a source attempting to fix a release time which seems unwarranted, I inform the source we cannot accept material under such conditions and will ignore it. Give them the same treatment you do when some jerk, in government or out, tells you: "I can't say a thing for quotation, but off the record..." At that point you break in with: "Listen, pal, either talk so everyone can hear you or we will get the story elsewhere."

Former ASNE Member Again Joins Society

Coleman Harwell, listed among the new members, is more accurately an old member re-elected. As executive editor of the Nashville Tennessean he belonged to ASNE from 1939 to 1945. Meanwhile he had gone into war service, captain in AMG in Italy, and on his return left newspaper work to take over the family business on the death of his father. Last spring he became eligible again when he was named vice-president and editor of The Tennessean.

Lynn H. Holcomb

Lynn H. Holcomb, managing editor of the Akron Beacon Journal, died Nov. 12 in Detroit. Four operations in 23 months failed to arrest the cancer which was to cause his death at 45.

In a Beacon Journal editorial, associate editor Robert H. Stopher wrote: "No newspaperman was ever more loyal to his community, his paper and his staff, more scrupulously fair, more ardent in fighting for those things which he believed would make Akron a better place in which to live.

"Those of us who knew how sick he had been the last two years could give him credit for extraordinary courage—a quality so admirable and yet so heart-rending to us who shared his tragic secret."

Joining the Beacon Journal as a copy reader in 1930, Mr. Holcomb became, successively, make-up editor, assistant city editor, city editor, news editor, and in 1945 managing editor of the newspaper. He is survived by his wife, and two children.

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Only Three Members Delinquent in Dues

Treasurer Alexander F. Jones reported only three members delinquent in dues, and a balance of \$16,006.85 as of Oct. 31. About \$4,500 is in U. S. Savings Bonds and a savings bank account; the remainder of \$11,464.67 in a checking account. The last figure, Mr. Jones said, represents approximately \$1,500 more than is necessary for operating expenses for the next five months.

Mr. Jones also suggested that the Society well might issue membership cards, renewable annually on payment of dues. These, he said, would remind a member whether he is paid up, serve as handy identification cards and, at times, make a pleasant conversation piece as evidence of membership in an august Society.

Ex-treasurer David Lawrence objected that every man's wallet already is overstuffed; that membership cards of any group get into the hands of non-members who use them to crash gates or borrow money; and that for a conversation piece, a certificate of membership for framing would be more suitable.

The directors just didn't know the answer to that one and suggested, "Put it in The Bulletin and ask members to answer whether they want them or not."